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April 20, 1976

SUBJECT: COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATIONS

Shortly before recessing the House passed a \$304 million Coast Guard authorization bill, which included \$66 million for control of ice on the Great Lakes and \$109 million for ships and aircraft to patrol the extra 2 million miles of ocean coming under their jurisdiction as a result of the 200-mile limit bill.

What is the Administration's position on this Coast Guard authorization?

The Administration opposes the bill in its present form. In his FY 77 budget, the President proposed an authorization of \$126 million for the Coast Guard. Obviously, the House bill is more than double the amount of the President's proposal, and we do not feel that those additional expenditures as laid out in the House bill are necessary.

While some authorizations will be necessary to ensure the patrolling of the 200-mile limit, we object to the specific facilities detailed in the House bill, and we would prefer to see the necessary authorizations put instead into the 200-mile authorization.

Will the President veto the bill as passed by the House?

The authorization is currently in the Senate Commerce Committee, and we will be working with them to try to obtain a more acceptable piece of legislation.

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