

The original documents are located in Box 120, folder “Public Works Appropriations” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATIONS

Yesterday the President signed H. R. 14236, the Public Works Appropriations bill, after a great deal of speculation that he would veto it, because it was \$350 million over budget for FY 77.

Why, after so much Administration criticism of the bill, did the President sign this bill?

The bill contains appropriations for activities of ERDA, the Corps of Engineers-civil, the Bureau of Reclamation, the power agencies of the Interior Department, and of course \$200 million for disaster relief for Teton Dam victims.

The President, after carefully weighing the pros and cons of signing the bill, decided that, in spite of budgetary objections, that the bill on balance deserved to be signed.

In view of his budgetary objections, he has requested that OMB and the affected agencies and departments review the bill and make suggestions as to possible recissions and deferrals .

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