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June 9, 1975

SUBJECT:

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL

Is the President concerned that Congress has not yet passed the Second Supplemental Appropriations Act?

GUIDANCE: The President is very concerned that Congress has failed to pass the Second Supplemental. He feels that it is essential that Congress pass this so that the Federal Government can honor its commitments to groups such as the G.I. bill program participants.

As you are aware, on June 2nd, the Executive Branch was not able to make a regularly scheduled payment to Veterans because the Congress had not yet completed its action on that Second Supplemental. As the days go by, we have now missed a second payment so that there are about 300,000 G.I. bill participants who will not receive their benefit checks on a timely basis. In another week, we are going to miss another regularly scheduled payment date.

In addition to that, if Congress fails to take action on the Second Supplemental by the end of this week, not only will the G.I. bill program participants be in arrears for their benefits, but we will be at the point where the Executive Branch is not able to make advances to States for the unemployment insurance program, and we no longer will have any funds to obligate for food stamp participants. Also, 30 million social security checks of \$50 each are waiting on passage of this bill.

The provision holding up the Second Supplemental is the Railroad Roadbed Improvement provision. What's the President's stand on that provision?

GUIDANCE: We, like the House of Representatives, are strongly opposed to the appropriation of money for this purpose in this way. This railroad roadbed improvement appropriation is not part of a comprehensive program to deal with the real problems of the railroads, and this would merely be throwing away the taxpayers dollars in a guise of creating jobs. The House has turned this provision down twice already, and for some reason, the Senate is insisting on retaining it.

We urge that Congress stop playing with this supplemental appropriation bill like a political football, when it means the Executive Branch is not able to honor commitments already made.

JGC

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