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## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Q. The Senate and the House have passed the Vocational Rehabilitation legislation over the President's veto. Since there is controversy over the "pocket veto" question, what is the President's position?

A. First, let me point out that the President has always favored legislation in the ~~the~~ field of vocational rehabilitation. He wants ~~this~~ legislation -- although he obviously disagrees with some of the provisions of the present bill. Second, let me point out the present legislation does not expire until June 30, 1974 and that even though he has not signed the bill, no one will lose benefits or services.

Q. But does the President **consider the bill law** now that his veto has been overridden?

A. We ~~do not~~ recognize that the action of Congress creates serious legal questions. ~~that~~

Q. Will the President implement the legislation?

A. As you know, this action was taken while the President was away. He obviously will be addressing himself to this question now that he is back.

Q. Will the White House take the matter into court?

A. I simply cannot say.

## VOCATIONAL JOB TRAINING

### Question

Do you favor expanded Federal aid for vocational job training?

### Answer

Vocational job training is of tremendous significance to both the public and private sector. While the states have the major public sector role, the Federal government supports job training in many ways including more than \$3.2 billion in our present budget for Comprehensive Employment and Training Act programs and vocational education.

Federal agencies also support specialized training in health, environmental protection, public safety and a host of other occupational areas.

One of my chief concerns, however, is that Federal support of vocational education not mislead the participants. There are always job openings created by turnover as well as by expansion of the economy. Many of these will be filled more quickly and efficiently by those trained in our vocational programs. But I do not support training for the sake of training alone. In the statute authorizing our principal programs for the training and retraining the unemployed, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, you will find a strict directive that has been a part of the manpower system since the early legislation of the 1960's. It says, no person shall be referred for training unless there is reasonable expectation of employment in the occupational area he is being trained for. I can assure you that this Administration's reviews of expenditures in this area will be guided by it.

### Background

#### FY 76 President's Budget

Major Resources Available for Vocational Training (\$ in millions)

CETA Titles I, III, IV	\$1,994
Vocational Education	523
Vocational Rehabilitation	736
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	3,253

November 27, 1974

SUBJECT: CONGRESS REPASSES VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION BILL

The House and Senate yesterday passed and sent to the White House a Vocational Rehabilitation bill, vetoed earlier by President Ford.

Will the President now sign the Voc-Rehab bill?

GUIDANCE: It is my understanding that the President will let this legislation become law without his signature.

If the President vetoed the bill just a few weeks ago, why would he not veto it again?

(President and the Congress)

GUIDANCE: We/both felt that repassage of this legislation would avoid legal uncertainties over whether the override actually produced a law or not. We are all interested in avoiding an unnecessary situation and uncertainties about the continuing existence of programs under the Voc-Rehab bill. We want to avoid any conceivable hardships and therefore, we and Congress are cooperating to eliminate this technicality.

Why did you veto the bill in the first place?

GUIDANCE: As the President said in his veto message on October 29, "No group in our country is more in need of supportive services than the handicapped." Throughout his years in Congress, the President has consistently supported good Federal programs designed to assist the handicapped. However, this legislation passed the House of Representatives without any hearings. Our problem with the bill is that it transfers a program from one part of HEW to another for no good reason, indeed for very bad reasons. It dictates where in HEW minute decisions must be made; it creates independent organizational units at subordinate levels that are wasteful and duplicative and it sets up a monitoring process for the construction and modernization of Federal facilities that would force the President to create a new 250 man bureaucracy in HEW to duplicate functions carried out elsewhere in the Executive Branch.

(More)

Since the present legislation does not expire until June 30, 1975, the President vetoed this bill because it would disrupt existing Federal programs and ill-serve the needs of our nation's handicapped citizens. The President asked Secretary Weinberger to meet with Congressional leaders to initiate new legislation. We are saddened that this suggestion was not heeded.

JGC