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SEPTEMBER 19, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

While disappointed in today's Senate vote, I am in agreement with the Congress that Federal employees deserve this pay increase. It was painful for me to ask the Congress to defer this raise for three months. I know I had asked the Congress to do a difficult thing. But there was a compelling reason. I refer to the inflationary momentum which I regard as domestic Public Enemy Number One. That is why I had requested the Congress and the Federal employees to cooperate.

Now that the Congress has acted, I will proceed to reach a decision as quickly as possible, within the prescribed discretionary limits, on the precise amount of the raise.

The need to reduce Federal spending continues. I sincerely hope that the Congress will join with me in this effort.

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