

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 24, 1975

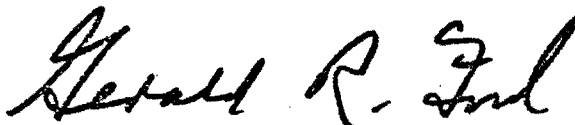
The Speaker of the House
of Representatives

Sir:

I ask the Congress to consider proposed supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 1975 in the amount of \$13,924,000 in budget authority and \$1,200,000 for a transfer which does not increase budget authority for the Judiciary.

The proposal is set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the attached appropriation language. As required by law (28 USC 605), this proposal is being transmitted without change.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text of the letter.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

SUPREME COURT BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

ROWLAND F. KIRKS
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM E. FOLEY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 24, 1975

Honorable Roy Ash
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
New Executive Office Building
17th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Ash:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 605 of Title 28, United States Code, I submit herewith, for your consideration and transmittal to the Congress, requests for supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 1975 as follows:

Speedy Trial Planning, The Judiciary

For the purpose of carrying out the initial phases of planning and implementation of speedy trial plans pursuant to Title I of the "Speedy Trial Act of 1974," \$2,500,000, to be allocated to the Federal judicial districts by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. The funds so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

Pretrial Services Agencies, The Judiciary

For salaries and expenses of Pretrial Services Agencies to be established pursuant to Title II of the "Speedy Trial Act of 1974," and to provide supportive services to defendants released pending trial, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Honorable Roy Ash
Page two

Federal Judicial Center

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses, Federal Judicial Center," \$1,020,000.

Administrative Office
of the United States Courts

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses, Administrative Office of the United States Courts," \$288,000.

Expenses of Referees

For an additional amount for "Expenses of Referees," \$116,000.

Expenses, United States Court Facilities
Furniture and Furnishings

For an additional amount for "Expenses, United States Court Facilities, Furniture and Furnishings," \$1,200,000 to be derived by transfer from the appropriation "Space and Facilities, The Judiciary," fiscal year 1975.

The sum of \$2.5 million for "Speedy Trial Planning" was authorized by Public Law 93-619 approved January 3, 1975. The proposed supplemental will provide funds to be allocated by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to Federal judicial districts to carry out the initial phases of formulating and implementing plans for speedy trial.

The request relating to "Pretrial Services Agencies" will provide funds to establish, on a demonstration basis in each of ten representative judicial districts (other than the District of Columbia), a Pretrial Services Agency to be responsible for maintaining effective supervision and control over, and to provide supportive services to, defendants released under Title II of the Speedy Trial Act of 1974. The amount requested is consistent with the authorization for appropriations contained in the Act.

Honorable Roy Ash
Page three

The request for a supplemental for the Federal Judicial Center is directly related to the Speedy Trial legislation. It is essential that the Center accelerate the development and implementation of a computerized information system (Courtran II) which will provide the data processing capability required to comply with the Congressional mandate for Speedy Trial. The amount requested will provide for the procurement and installation of four mini-computers and for contractual services for software development and operator training. It is contemplated that mini-computers will be installed in 25 district courts and that they will be made available to the remaining district courts through the use of terminal devices. Funds for the additional computers and other related costs have been included in the budget for fiscal year 1976. Provision also has been made for additional personnel required by the Center for research and evaluation studies of the district court plans and to provide advice and counsel to the respective planning committees.

The request for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts is also directly related to the Speedy Trial legislation. The Office will require additional resources to provide computer capability for receiving statistical data from the respective offices via teleprocessing. The Administrative Office staff will have to be augmented to perform the various duties relating to the establishment of Pretrial Services Agencies, the operation of district court planning groups, the analyses of Speedy Trial plans developed by each of the judicial districts, the compilation of statistical data, and logistic support services.

With respect to the request for "Expenses of Referees," during the first five months of fiscal year 1975, bankruptcy case filings were 30 percent higher than they were during the same period of fiscal year 1974. This increase in filings has created a very serious problem for bankruptcy judges and it is essential that they be provided with additional clerical personnel at the earliest possible date to process the inordinate amount of paperwork that is involved. The estimate contemplates the appointment of 34 additional bankruptcy clerks on or about April 1, 1975.

Honorable Roy Ash
Page four

With reference to the item "Furniture and Furnishings," our experience to date would indicate that the sum of \$2,675,000 made available by the Congress for fiscal year 1975 will not adequately meet the requirements of the courts. Heretofore, funds for this purpose were appropriated directly to the General Services Administration and this office did not have sufficient experience to formulate a realistic estimate of requirements. In order to provide the courts the furniture and furnishings required incident to the occupancy of new buildings and to meet their normal recurring requirements, we have proposed the transfer of funds out of the appropriation for "Space and Facilities."

We would appreciate your giving these requests your prompt attention. It is essential that the funds be made available at the earliest possible date, particularly with reference to those items which relate to the Speedy Trial Act of 1974. If you should require any additional information, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours,



Rowland F. Kirks
Director