

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 27, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 26, 1975

TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT TO THE SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I transmit herewith for the consideration of the Congress draft legislation which would authorize annual appropriations for the White House Office, the Executive Residence, Special Assistance to the President (i.e., assistance provided to the President by the Vice President for Executive branch duties), the Domestic Council, and funds to meet unanticipated needs for personnel and administrative expenses.

The activities provided for in this bill have been funded over the years in annual appropriation acts but these acts have been delayed the past few years because some provisions were not authorized in permanent legislation. This bill was drafted to remedy that situation and I am now requesting that permanent authorizations be enacted to facilitate the appropriation process.

The bill sets upper limits on the pay level of senior staff assistants in each of the offices concerned and is consistent with the present levels approved by the Congress in annual appropriation acts. It also authorizes and sets pay limitations on consultants hired by these offices. In addition, travel and official entertainment expenses, which are appropriated annually, would be made subject to the authorization provided for in this bill.

The bill would not change the requirements for annual appropriations for each of the offices concerned. Budgets will continue to be submitted annually to the Congress and the Appropriations Committees will have an opportunity for complete review during their hearings.

I urge the Congress to act favorably on this proposal and trust that its enactment will expedite the appropriation process.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

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A BILL

To clarify existing authority for the employment of personnel and the procurement of services by the President and the Vice President, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 103 of title 3, United States Code, relating to travel expenses of the President, is amended by deleting "\$40,000" and inserting in place thereof "\$100,000".

Sec. 2. (a) Section 105 of title 3, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 105. Assistance and services for President and Vice President.

"(a) Without regard to any other provision of law regulating employment and pay of persons in the Government service, the President is authorized to appoint and fix the pay of--

"(1) fourteen administrative and staff assistants in the White House Office at the rate of basic pay then currently in effect for Level II of the Executive Schedule of section 5313 of title 5, and such other administrative and staff assistants as may be necessary in the White House Office at rates less than the rate of basic pay then currently in effect for Level II of the Executive Schedule of section 5313 of title 5, and

"(2) assistants, clerical, and other personnel in the White House Office at respective rates not more than the maximum rate of basic pay then currently paid under the General Schedule of section 5332 of title 5;

who shall perform such official duties as the President may prescribe.

"(b) The President is authorized to procure and provide within the White House Office services, as described in and in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, but at respective daily rates of pay for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the rate of basic pay then currently in effect for Level II of the Executive Schedule of section 5313 of title 5.

"(c) The President is authorized to provide for the procurement of goods and services (other than services authorized to be procured and provided under any other provision of this chapter) necessary in connection with the performance of his official duties (including, without regard to any other law, care, maintenance, repair and alteration, refurnishing, improvement, heating and

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lighting including electrical fixtures, operation, and preservation of the Executive Residence, for which purposes the President may procure services as described in and in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5).

"(d) There are authorized to be appropriated each fiscal year and for the period July 1, 1976 through September 30, 1976--

"(1) to the President, when specified in regular appropriation acts, such sums as may be necessary to pay official reception, entertainment, and representation expenses, to be expended at the discretion of the President and accounted for solely on his certificate, and

"(2) such sums as may be necessary for allocation within the Executive Office of the President for official reception and representation expenses.

"(e) Without regard to any other provision of law regulating employment and pay of persons in the Government service, there are authorized to be appropriated each fiscal year and for the period July 1, 1976 through September 30, 1976, such sums as may be necessary to enable the Vice President to provide assistance to the President in connection with the performance of functions specially assigned to the Vice President by the President in the discharge of Executive duties and responsibilities, including the use of such funds to--

"(1) establish the basic pay for one position at a rate not more than the rate of basic pay then currently in effect for Level II of the Executive Schedule of section 5313 of title 5, and such other administrative and staff assistants as may be necessary at rates less than the rate of basic pay then currently in effect for Level II of the Executive Schedule of section 5313 of title 5; and

"(2) procure and provide services as described in and in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, but at respective daily rates of pay for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the rate of basic pay then currently in effect for Level II of the Executive Schedule of section 5313 of title 5."

(b) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 3, United States Code, is amended by deleting--

"105. Compensation of secretaries and executive, administrative, and staff assistants to President."

and inserting in place thereof--

"105. Assistance and services for President and Vice President."

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Sec. 3. (a) Section 106 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 106. Assistance to President for unanticipated needs.

"There are authorized to be appropriated to the President each fiscal year and for the period July 1, 1976 through September 30, 1976, such sums as may be necessary to enable the President, in his discretion, without regard to any other provision of law regulating employment and pay of persons in the service of the Federal Government or regulating expenditures of Federal Government funds, to respond to and deal with unanticipated needs for furtherance of the national interest, security or defense, including personnel needs, services as described in and in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, but at respective daily rates of pay for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the rate of basic pay then currently in effect for Level II of the Executive Schedule of section 5313 of title 5; and administrative expenses related thereto."

(b) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 3, United States Code, is amended by deleting--

"106. Administrative assistants."

and inserting in place thereof--

"106. Assistance to President for unanticipated needs."

Sec. 4. (a) Chapter 2 of title 3, United States Code, is amended by adding the following new section at the end thereof--

"Sec. 112. The Domestic Council.

"There are authorized to be appropriated each fiscal year and for the period July 1, 1976 through September 30, 1976, such sums as may be necessary to enable the Domestic Council, without regard to any provision of law regulating employment and pay of persons in the Government service, to provide assistance to the President in connection with the performance of functions assigned to the Council by the President in the discharge of Executive duties and responsibilities, including the use of such funds to--

"(a) establish the basic pay for such administrative and staff assistants as may be necessary at rates less than the rate of basic pay then currently in effect for Level II of the Executive Schedule of section 5313 of title 5; and

"(b) procure and provide services as described in and in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, at respective daily rates of pay for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the maximum rate of basic pay then currently in effect under the General Schedule of section 5332 of title 5 for grade GS-18."

(b) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 3, United States Code, is amended by adding--

"112. The Domestic Council."

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