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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President has extended the period of time covered by his March 22, 1975, declaration of a major disaster for Tennessee.

The action was taken so that Federal disaster assistance could be provided in areas of the State which have sustained continued damage from flooding since March 16.

The original declaration covered severe storms and flooding which occurred during the period March 11 to 16. The new action amends the declaration to read "severe storms and flooding beginning about March 11, 1975. . ."

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist of temporary housing; disaster unemployment assistance payments to those who lost their jobs as a result of the storms and flooding; debris removal; and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed streets, roads, bridges, sewer and water systems, and public utilities. Low-interest rate disaster loans will be made available by the Small Business Administration under the authorities of Public Law 93-24, and emergency loan assistance will be made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

Federal relief activities in the areas affected by the storms and flooding since March 16 will be coordinated by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Administrator Thomas P. Dunne. Mr. Dunne will designate the specific areas within the State eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and State damage assessments.

Thomas P. Credle, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region IV, who was appointed Federal Coordinating Officer for the President's March 22 declaration of a major disaster, will also coordinate the Federal relief and recovery activities in the areas which sustained continued flood damage since March 16.

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