

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 26, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today amended his major disaster declaration of March 19, 1976, for the State of Michigan as a result of severe storms, icing, high winds, and flooding, beginning about March 2, to include damage caused by tornadoes which occurred on March 20. The President's action, taken at the request of Governor William G. Milliken of Michigan, will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of temporary housing, disaster unemployment assistance payments to those who are temporarily unemployed as a result of the tornadoes, debris removal, and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed streets, roads, bridges, and public facilities and utilities. Low-interest rate disaster loans will be made available by the Small Business Administration, and emergency loan assistance will be made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

Federal relief activities in the areas struck by the March 20 tornadoes 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.

Mr. Robert E. Connor, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region V, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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