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THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Early next week the Congress of the United States will return from Memorial Day recess. For many Americans, summer will have officially begun and the time for a vacation will be at hand. However, it is extremely important that this not become a vacation time for the Congress. There is an immense amount of work piling up on the Congressional calendar, and the country needs--and deserves--prompt legislative action in a number of important areas.

First of all, the temporary tax cut enacted last year will expire at the end of June. That tax cut must be extended. I have recommended that the Congress not only extend the tax cut permanently, but increase it by \$10 billion. Among the benefits every taxpayer would receive under my proposal is an increase in the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000--enough for many people to catch up on their bills and begin saving more for the future.

When we cut taxes, we must also cut federal spending. The Congress has not yet shown the kind of discipline necessary to hold the line on Federal spending. That is why I have vetoed so many spending bills and my vetoes so far have saved the taxpayers \$13 billion. I will continue to use my veto until Congress gets the message and Federal spending is brought under control. Another major legislative item urgently awaiting Congressional action is the re-enactment of Federal revenue sharing. There has already been an inexcusably long delay in passing this measure. Unless revenue sharing is re-enacted before it expires at the end of this year, communities in Ohio and across the country will be severely penalized.

Communities and states would be forced to raise local property taxes and state taxes in order to continue vital public services which revenue sharing would provide. The Congress must re-enact my revenue sharing program without delay. Two other items must also be given careful Congressional attention in the next few weeks. One is the B-1 bomber program. In considering the military procurement bill for the coming year, the Senate recently voted to delay the B-1 production until February of next year. That vote was both unnecessary and unwise. Our armed forces are the best trained men and women in the world, but they must have the tools to do the job. We need to get on with the B-1 bomber this year--not next year.

Finally, I urge the Congress to vote in the next few weeks for a full P. L. 480 program. Over the years the Food for Peace program, in addition to playing an important role in the implementation of our foreign policy, has provided expanded markets for American farm products. A provision of the Security Assistance authorization bill presently pending in the Congress would impose a \$175 million ceiling on P. L. 480 assistance to Korea. This action would hurt the American farmer, who depends on stable markets for his crops, and would seriously restrict the economic growth potential of one of our key allies. We need strong agricultural exports, and we need a full Food for Peace program. I strongly urge the Congress to remove this limitation.

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