

JULY 22, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I want to express my growing concern today over the outlook for Congressional action during the remainder of 1976.

Time for action is rapidly dwindling. Yet an enormous backlog of work is piling up on Congressional desks. Important laws must still be passed this year in many areas:

- To cut taxes and spending;
- To expand catastrophic health care protection;
- To set up a national swine flu program;
- To limit court-ordered school busing;
- To attack crime and drugs;
- And to accomplish many other important goals.

This afternoon I am sending to the Congress a special message urging prompt action on seventy-four different measures that I have proposed and are still awaiting passage.

I am also deeply concerned that at a time when the public's business has become so pressing, some members of the Congress apparently want to turn the rest of this legislative session into a political test of wills between one party in the Congress and another party in the White House. I do not think the Nation will be well served if partisanship is placed ahead of public service during the rest of this legislative session.

The country expects us to have political differences. The country expects a high-level, spirited political contest in the fall. But the country also expects that those who have the privilege of occupying public offices and collecting public salaries should render a full measure of public service.

There must be no holiday on good government. I intend to meet that standard and I trust the Congress will too.

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