

OCTOBER 2, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 12987--Emergency Jobs Programs Extension Act of 1976. This bill authorizes appropriations of such sums as may be necessary through fiscal year 1977 for the public service employment (PSE) program under Title VI of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA); amends the PSE provisions of CETA; changes the way in which unemployment benefits are financed for former public service jobholders; and establishes a National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics.

In December, 1974, Title VI--Emergency Job Programs--was added to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA). Title VI authorizes a public service employment (PSE) program in addition to the limited PSE program provided for in Title II of CETA. There are now approximately 260,000 persons employed under the emergency Title VI program and 50,000 employed under the permanent Title II program.

The bill requires that any new jobs funded over the level on board June 30, 1976, must be in 12-month projects. Jobs in the projects, plus 50% of vacancies occurring after June 30, 1976, must be filled with individuals who: (1) are long-term unemployed (15 or more weeks) or who are welfare recipients and (2) are not in households with gross incomes exceeding 70% of the Bureau of Labor Statistics lower living standard income level (approximately \$6,700 nationwide, but with regional and urban/rural differentials).

H. R. 12987 authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary through fiscal year 1977 for the Title VI program.

Amendments to CETA

The amendments to CETA:

--allow a maximum of 15% (in place of the present 10%) of CETA PSE funds to be used for administrative costs, including new authority to rent space and purchase equipment.

--require prime sponsors to reserve sufficient fiscal year 1977 Title VI funds and Title II funds to sustain throughout that year the number of public service jobholders under those titles on board as of June 30, 1976.

--require the Secretary to reserve at least 2% of Title VI funds for any fiscal year for Indians, and broaden the definition of Indian under Title VI to include nonreservation Indians and Alaskan natives. Currently, Indians receive about 0.6% of these funds.

--authorize the Secretary to demonstrate the feasibility of providing relocation assistance to unemployed workers residing in areas of substantial unemployment who would otherwise be eligible for public service employment.

--provide that financial records of prime sponsors on public service employment and names, addresses, positions and salaries of PSE jobholders are to be maintained and made available to the public.

(MORE)

Amendment to the Special Unemployment Assistance (SUA) Program

SUA was established in December, 1974, (in the same law that authorized Title VI of CETA) as a temporary Federal program of unemployment compensation for workers who were not otherwise eligible for unemployment benefits under any other law.

In eight States, the provisions of the unemployment compensation programs are such that localities must now use CETA grant funds to pay the cost of unemployment compensation for eligible CETA PSE participants. H. R. 12987 authorizes payment of these costs from SUA. This amendment takes effect on October 1, 1976, with respect to compensation paid for weeks of unemployment beginning after December 31, 1975. The provisions will eliminate the need for sponsors to reserve CETA grant funds to pay these costs, but should not change total Federal outlays.

National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics

H. R. 12987 establishes a Commission to examine the procedures, concepts, and methodology involved in employment and unemployment statistics and to suggest improvements.

The Commission's nine members are to be appointed by the President with Senate confirmation; the Chairman is to be designated by the President. The Commission's report, containing its findings and recommendations to the President and the Congress, is due within 18 months after the date of appointment of its first five members.

The bill will also:

--require the National Commission for Manpower Policy to report to Congress no later than March 31, 1978, on the net employment effects of the public service employment programs authorized by Titles II and VI of CETA.

--require the Secretary of Labor to report to appropriate Congressional committees within 90 days of enactment of this Act on the veterans employment situation and efforts to give veterans special consideration in filling public service jobs.

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