

January 19 , 1977

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today declared an emergency for the State of West Virginia because of the impact of a drought. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

The emergency situation has resulted from severe drought conditions that have affected widespread portions of the State. The drought has impacted heavily on livestock, as the pastures in the State have died out because of the lack of moisture. The President's declaration of an emergency will provide emergency livestock feed assistance by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist livestock producers to maintain foundation herds in the State.

Federal relief and recovery activities in West Virginia 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. Mr. Arthur T. Doyle, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Region III, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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NOTE:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FDAA: (202) 634-6666.