

116854

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON DC 20548

~~20013~~

B-205053

November 6, 1981

To the President of the Senate and the
Speaker of the House of Representatives

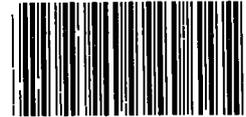
On October 1, 1981, the President's first special message for fiscal year 1982 was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message proposes twenty-six deferrals totalling \$737.2 million as follows:

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

D82-1 Appalachian Regional Development Programs
11X0090

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

D82-2 Forest Service
Timber Salvage Sales
12X5204



116854

The timber salvage sale funds have been the subject of deferral proposals in fiscal years 1978-1981. We stated in our report on the President's first special message for fiscal year 1981 that section 14(h) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, Pub. L. No. 94-588, 16 U.S.C. §472a(n), provides that deposits in the timber salvage sales fund are to remain available until expended to cover the cost of accomplishing the purposes for which deposited. However, section 14(n) also provides that sums found to be in excess of the cost of accomplishing the statutory purposes shall be transferred to miscellaneous receipts in the United States Treasury. We commented that some of the funds currently on deposit may be in excess of what is needed, in view of the fact that deferrals have been proposed since 1978 and total budgetary resources available also have increased.

We also noted that Forest Service Manual 2435.4, dated October 15, 1979, provides that all salvage sale funds in excess of 150 percent of the latest 3-year average of actual costs will be returned to the Treasury beginning in fiscal year 1982. Using that formula, we estimate that approximately \$2.3 million of the

019/81/116854

\$6.7 million proposed for deferral could be transferred to the Treasury. We based our estimate on the following calculation

		(millions)
Total funds available		\$19.1
3-year average of actual costs	\$11.2	
150 percent of 3-year average		<u>16.8</u>
Funds available for return to Treasury		2.3

D82-3 Forest Service
 Expenses, Brush Disposal
 12X5206

The special message states that seasonal factors frequently require deferring the use of funds deposited with the Forest Service for disposing of debris resulting from cutting operations because disposal operations are affected by weather conditions. This justification has been used for deferrals for this account in previous years.

Our review of this account shows that deferrals since 1978 consistently have been more than 40 percent of total budgetary resources, the deferral reported in D82-3 represents 52 percent of total budgetary resources. In addition, total budgetary resources have increased from \$65.7 million in fiscal year 1978 to \$95.7 million in fiscal year 1982. As we have commented in our reports on previous deferrals in this account, we believe that the Forest Service should increase its efforts to reduce the backlog of brush disposal work and make full use of the funds available to it, rather than deferring the funds.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

D82-4 General Administration
 Office of the Secretary
 Participation in United States
 Expositions
 130/41805

D82-5 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 Administration
 Construction
 13X1452

B-205053

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - MILITARY

D82-6 Military Construction
211/52050
D82-7 Family Housing, Defense
970/40700

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - Civil

D82-8 Wildlife Conservation
Army, Navy, Air Force
21X5095
17X5095
57X5095

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

D82-9 Energy Programs
Fossil Energy Construction
89X0214

Because of issues raised concerning this deferral, our investigation of D82-9 has not been completed. In order not to delay our report to the Congress on the other impoundments in the President's first special message, we will report separately on D82-9 as soon as our investigation is concluded.

D82-10 Energy Programs
Strategic Petroleum Reserve
89X0218

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

D82-11 Health Services Administration
Health Services
75X0350

D82-12 Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health
Administration
Construction and Renovation, Saint
Elizabeths Hospital
75X1312

D82-13 Office of the Asst. Secretary for Health
Scientific Activities Overseas
(Special Foreign Currency Program)
75X1102

B-205053

Agency officials told us that Egypt is no longer an excess currency country and should be deleted from the list of countries in the special message.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- D82-14 Heritage Conservation and Recreation
 Service
 Land and Water Conservation Fund
 14X5005
- D82-15 Geological Survey
 Payments from Proceeds, Sale of Water
 Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, Sec. 40(d)
 14X5662
- D82-16 Bureau of Mines
 Drainage of Anthracite Mines
 14X0956

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- D82-17 Federal Prison System
 Buildings and Facilities
 45X1003

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- D82-18 Employment and Training Administration
 Employment and Training Assistance
 161/20174

The special message states that this deferral will have no programmatic effects. However, agency officials told us that if the deferred funds are not released fairly soon, there will be programmatic effects on certain projects.

Agency officials identified the following programs under Title III of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), as affected by the deferral Special National Programs; Research and Development, Evaluation, and National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee. An Office of National Programs official said that the deferred funds for Special National Programs and Activities are planned for awarding discretionary grants and contracts. The funds would provide employment and training assistance for persons with severe disadvantages in labor markets in industries and occupations not readily accessible to State and local CETA prime sponsors. A high percentage of the awards are renewals of previous awards to the same

organizations, and; according to the official, many of these awards are due to be renewed in November and December 1981.

The Executive Director of the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC) said that funds earmarked for NOICC will be used primarily to provide basic assistance grants for the operation of State-level NOICCs. According to the Executive Director, there are enough carryover funds from fiscal year 1981 to fund NOICC during the first quarter of fiscal year 1982, and the additional funds expected to be transferred to NOICC by the Department of Education will be enough to carry it through the second quarter. Therefore, the Executive Director believes that it is important to the operation of NOICC that the \$3 million from the Department of Labor be made available before the start of the third quarter of fiscal year 1982.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

D82-19 United States Emergency Refugee and
Migration Assistance Fund, Executive
11X0040

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

D82-20 Federal Aviation Administration
Civil Supersonic Aircraft Development
Civil Supersonic Aircraft Development
Termination
Research and Development
69X1358
69X0106
69X1300

D82-21 Federal Aviation Administration
Facilities and Equipment (Airport and
Airway Trust Fund)
69X8107
698/28107
699/38107
690/48107
691/58107

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

D82-22 Office of Revenue Sharing
State and Local Government Fiscal
Assistance Trust Fund
20X8111

B-205053

D82-23 Office of Revenue Sharing
State and Local Government Fiscal
Assistance Trust Fund
20X8111

D82-24 Federal Law Enforcement Training
Center
Construction
20X0103

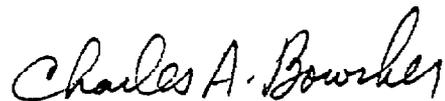
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

D82-25 Land acquisition and development fund
42X4084

MOTOR CARRIER RATEMAKING STUDY COMMISSION

D82-26 Salaries and Expenses
48X2700

We have reviewed the first special message. Except as noted above, we have identified no additional information that would be useful to the Congress in its consideration of the President's proposals and we believe that the proposed deferrals are in accordance with existing authority.



Comptroller General
of the United States