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more than the House Ways and Means Committee has approved and nearly twice the amount President Ford has proposed.

Sticking by his prediction that unemployment will rise to 10 per cent this year, Meany said he thought as recently as a month ago that a \$20 billion tax cut would be enough to revive the economy, but "not now."

President Ford proposed a \$18 billion, one-year-only tax cut. He has since indicated he would not seriously object to the somewhat larger \$20 billion Ways and Means bill.

How he might feel about \$30 billion is unclear. Before unemployment jumped last month, he was warning Congress not to go so far in fighting recession that it would rekindle inflation.

Meany made his prediction of 10 per cent unemployment after the unemployment rate jumped a full percentage point last month, from 7.2 to 8.2 per cent of the work force, the highest it has been since the Depression. The administration still says that the rate will peak at about 8.5 per cent this year.

The Ways and Means Committee will meet to give final approval to the tax cut bill this week. Barring procedural holdups, the bill will come up on the House floor next week, then go on to the Senate, where several leading Democrats have already proposed increasing its size.

Meany spoke at a news conference on the first day of the AFL-CIO executive council's regular quarterly meeting here.

While the labor federation wants a cut in income taxes now, it also wants a selective increase in Social Security taxes in the future.

The 35-member policy-setting executive council adopted a resolution calling on Congress to increase "gradually" the Social Security wage base—the part of a worker's income on which he and his employer both now pay the 5.85 per cent Social Security tax each year—from the current \$14,100 to \$28,000.

About 85 per cent of all workers now make \$14,100 a year or less, and so already pay the Social Security tax on all their earnings.

The council set no timetable for the wage-base increase. The increase is one of several steps the council proposed to make sure that the Social Security system's income stays equal to its projected outlays 25 and 30 years from now, when population experts say there are likely to be relatively fewer taxpaying wage earners to support a rising number of elderly and retired workers.

A Social Security advisory council recently considered but rejected the idea of immediately raising the wage base to \$24,000. The council will make alternative recommendations to Congress some time in the next several months. Congress, however, is unlikely to do much tinkering with Social Security for at least another year.

MEANY, CITING WORSENING UNEMPLOYMENT, CALLS FOR \$30-BILLION TAX REDUCTION
(By Damon Stetson)

BAL HARBOUR, FLA.—George Meany, citing worsening unemployment, said today that he now thought a tax cut of \$30-billion—\$10-billion more than the A.F.L.—C.I.O. proposed last month—was necessary to stimulate the economy through increased purchasing power.

Mr. Meany, who is president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, was pessimistic, however, about the prospects of Congressional action soon enough to prevent the rate of unemployment from rising by summer from its present level of 8.2 per cent to 10 per cent.

As a result of the continuing high rate of joblessness in recent months, Mr. Meany said "Unemployment is now feeding on unemployment." Measures enacted since the Depression of the Nineteen-thirties to keep jobless consumers in the market place are becoming in-

effective, he said, with some of the unemployed exhausting their benefits and also the supplementary benefits that their unions had negotiated in contracts. He expressed the view that unemployment benefits were needed for more than 52 weeks.

Mr. Meany made his comments during a news conference here, where the Executive Council of the A.F.L.—C.I.O. is holding its winter meetings this week.

ADVISES JOBLESS STUDY

Mr. Meany said that he would like to see Congressmen, who return to their home states during vacations or recesses, spend a lot of time in unemployment offices and find out what it means to be out of work. He said that he would also like to see President Ford get closer to the problems of America but that he hesitated to suggest that he expose himself to the risks involved.

Once Congress knows how serious the present unemployment situation is, he said, "I think we'll get action." But he made it clear that he did not think this action would come soon enough to avoid a further serious rise in unemployment in the months immediately ahead.

The labor organization has been pushing for a substantial cut in individual taxes, weighted on behalf of low-income and middle-income families, and also for a reduction in corporate taxes to create jobs through an increase in the investment credit from the present 7 per cent to 12 per cent on business investment in equipment and machinery in the United States.

Asked what he thought the prospects would be for President Ford's reelection for another four years in 1976, Mr. Meany thought that his chances would be "very poor" if unemployment became as bad as projected or was worse next year.

The labor leader said that no prospective candidates for the Presidency had been invited to meet with the Executive Council. The federation does not encourage such visits, Mr. Meany said, but acknowledged that in the past some candidates had come anyway.

Asked whether he favored anyone as a Presidential prospect, he replied "no."

As he has before, Mr. Meany emphasized that the A.F.L.—C.I.O. was independent of both major parties, although he said it was politically active in supporting its friends. But he said, "I do not have a preference between parties."

He reiterated that federation was opposed to any reimposition of wage and price controls. He said that the experience of 32 months under controls, while Richard M. Nixon was President, had shown that they were successful in controlling wages but not prices. He called that "grossly inequitable."

The Executive Council, which met for two hours today, adopted a series of statements outlining proposals for improving and extending unemployment insurance benefits, providing and extending unemployment insurance benefits, providing health insurance for the unemployed, and steps to alleviate long-run deficits in Social Security.

COVERAGE FOR ALL

Unemployment compensation protection, the council said, should be extended on a permanent basis to all wage and workers, domestic workers and all public employees. A weekly benefit standard, it said, should be established entitling a job-salary workers, including farm less worker to at least 66½ per cent of his or her former weekly earnings up to a maximum weekly benefit of at least 75 per cent of the average weekly wage for his or her state.

On Social Security, the council proposed that the taxable wage base should be gradually increased until the same proportion of workers have their full wages covered as when the law was enacted. The full wages of about 85 per cent of workers are now covered

compared with 97 per cent when the program began, the statement said. This would require raising the base from the current \$14,100 to \$28,000, it said.

PRESIDENT FORD'S EDUCATION BUDGET

Mr. MONDALE, Mr. President, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the American public a Library of Congress study prepared at my request which I released on February 16. This study compares the administration's fiscal 1976 education budget request with the fiscal 1975 appropriations and the fiscal 1975 appropriations taking into account the impact of the 11 percent calendar year 1974 rise in the Consumer Price Index.

The analysis reveals that President Ford's fiscal 1976 budget request for education division programs is almost \$400 million below the fiscal 1975 appropriations for such programs, and \$1.1 billion below the 1975 appropriations in terms of real purchasing power when double digit inflation is considered.

Furthermore, in the elementary and secondary education programs alone—including education of the handicapped, emergency school aid, and school assistance in federally affected areas—the fiscal 1976 budget request is almost \$600 million below the 1975 appropriations for the programs, and \$959 million below the 1975 appropriations when the impact of inflation is counted.

Mr. President, the Library of Congress study indicates that the President's budget for education generally, and elementary and secondary education particularly, is simply intolerable. At a time when the need for increased Federal assistance to education is growing, this budget proposes decreases. As one Senator, I want to announce at this point that I will be doing all I can to turn this budget proposal around.

I believe it is important that the American public understand the real impact of this budget on education, and I am therefore asking unanimous consent that a copy of the study be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ANALYSIS OF FISCAL YEAR 1976 EDUCATION BUDGET

The attached tables were prepared at the request of, and according to the instructions of, the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Youth. As illustrated by these tables, the FY 1976 Administration budget request for Education Division programs is \$390,254,000 below the FY 1975 appropriations for such programs, and \$1,254,000 below the FY 1975 appropriations for such programs, and \$1,120,937,000 below the FY 1975 appropriations multiplied by the calendar year 1974 rise in the Consumer Price Index of 11.0%. For elementary and secondary education programs of the Education Division (including education of the handicapped, emergency school aid, and school assistance in Federally affected areas), the FY 1976 budget request is \$591,304,000 below the FY 1975 appropriations for these programs, and \$959,204,000 below the FY 1975 appropriations multiplied by the calendar year 1974 rise in the consumer price index (11.0%).

SELECTED STATISTICS REGARDING BUDGET PROPOSALS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDUCATION DIVISION PROGRAMS, FISCAL YEARS 1975 AND 1976

[In thousands of dollars; all amounts represent new budget authority]

	1975 budget ¹	Col. 1 times CPI ²	1975 appropriation ³	Col 3 times CPI ²	1976 budget ⁴	Col. 5 minus col 7	Col. 5 minus col. 4
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Elementary and secondary education:							
Educationally deprived children	\$1,885,000	\$2,092,350	\$1,876,000	\$2,082,360	\$1,900,000	-\$192,350	-\$182,360
Supplementary services	146,393	162,496	120,000	133,200	0	-162,496	-133,200
Strengthening State departments of education	39,425	43,762	39,425	43,761	0	-43,762	-43,761
Bilingual education	70,000	77,700	85,000	94,350	70,000	-7,700	-24,350
Right-to-read	12,000	13,320	12,000	13,320	12,000	-1,320	-1,320
Educational broadcasting projects ⁵	14,000	15,540	19,000	21,090	14,000	-1,540	-7,090
Civil rights advisory services	26,700	29,637	26,700	29,637	27,000	-2,637	-2,637
Follow Through	35,000	38,850	53,000	58,830	42,000	3,150	-16,830
Equipment and minor remodeling	28,500	31,635	21,750	24,142	0	-31,635	-24,142
Drug abuse education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental education	1,900	2,109	1,900	2,109	0	-2,109	-2,109
Nutrition and health	1,900	2,109	900	999	0	-2,109	-999
Support and innovation					173,000	173,000	173,000
Subtotal	2,260,818	2,509,508	2,255,675	2,503,799	2,238,000	-271,508	-265,798
School assistance in federally affected areas							
Emergency school aid	340,300	377,733	656,016	728,177	266,000	-111,733	-462,177
Education of the handicapped	75,000	83,250	*234,004	259,744	75,000	-8,250	-184,744
	147,109	163,291	199,609	221,565	175,000	11,700	-46,565
Subtotal (of all above)	2,823,227	3,133,782	3,345,304	3,713,284	2,754,000	-379,782	-959,284
Occupational, vocational, and adult education (includes vocational, adult and career education, education personnel development; ethnic heritage studies)							
Higher education (includes student aid, institutional aid, special programs for disadvantaged students)	659,595	732,150	681,676	756,660	644,000	-88,150	-112,660
Library resources (includes public, school and college library resources)	2,110,023	2,342,126	2,131,271	2,365,710	2,213,000	-129,126	-152,710
Educational activities overseas (special foreign currency program)	115,250	127,928	167,474	185,896	167,000	39,072	-18,896
Salaries and expenses (includes administration, dissemination, but does not include the National Center for Education Statistics)	2,000	2,220	1,000	1,110	2,000	-220	890
Student loan insurance fund	115,684	128,409	105,340	116,927	113,000	-15,409	-3,927
Higher education facilities loan and insurance fund	115,000	127,650	115,000	127,650	201,787	74,137	74,137
National Institute of Education	2,701	2,998	2,701	2,998	2,192	-806	-806
Assistant Secretary for Education (includes the fund for the improvement of postsecondary education)	130,000	144,300	70,000	77,700	80,000	-64,300	2,300
National Center for Education Statistics	18,671	20,725	13,807	15,325	26,700	5,975	11,375
Innovative and experimental programs ⁷	11,600	12,876	9,060	10,056	16,700	3,824	6,644
					32,000	32,000	32,000
Total Education Division	*6,103,751	6,775,164	6,642,633	7,373,316	6,252,379	-522,785	-1,120,937

¹ These estimates are those proposed by the Administration in conjunction with congressional consideration of the 1975-Labor-HEW Appropriations (H.R. 15580, Public Law 93-517) and 1975 supplemental appropriations (H.R. 16900, Public Law 93-554) Bills; not the revised 1975 budget estimates which accompany the 1976 administration budget proposals.
² CPI: Consumer Price Index, calendar year 1974 (Source: Office of Management and Budget, "The Budget of the United States Government Fiscal Year 1976," p. 41) of 11 percent.
³ Appropriations sources: 1975 Labor-HEW Appropriations (H.R. 15580, Public Law 93-517); 1975 supplemental appropriations (H.R. 16900, Public Law 93-554); and 1975 continuing appropriations (H.J. Res. 1062, Public Law 93-324, as amended).
⁴ Source for 1976 Budget estimates: Department of HEW, Office of the Secretary, "The Fiscal

Year 1976 Budget" (press release); with the exception of the estimates for the Student Loan Insurance Fund and the Higher Education Facilities Loan and Insurance Fund, both of which are from Office of Management and Budget, "The Budget of the United States Government Fiscal Year 1976," p. 242.
⁵ Includes educational programming as well as facilities for both years.
⁶ Under provisions of Public Law 93-324, as amended (1975 continuing appropriations).
⁷ Educational programming request of \$7,000,000 transferred to educational broadcasting projects under elementary and secondary education.
⁸ Deflator: Implicit GNP Deflator (Source: same as for number 2 above) of 10.2 percent, calendar year 1974.

S. 490—TO INCREASE PAYMENTS TO CERTAIN VETERANS

Mr. HASKELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of S. 490, a bill introduced by my distinguished colleague from South Dakota (Mr. ABOUREZK). The purpose of this legislation is to increase payments to service-connected veterans traveling to and from Veterans' Administration facilities for medical purposes.

I feel these veterans deserve the added financial support, especially in light of the severe inflationary conditions plaguing our country today.

The current rate of reimbursement of 6 cents per mile or \$12 per day is totally insufficient to cover actual costs resulting from increased gasoline and maintenance costs. The insufficiency of these low rates has been substantiated by Department of Transportation and American Automobile Association studies which indicate that the cost of operating a vehicle is 20 cents per mile—a figure far in excess of the present compensation rate.

We have a responsibility to insure that veterans are capable of obtaining qualified medical assistance. The reimbursement was designed to aid in meeting this responsibility and is no longer meeting that need.

I understand that discussions have been taking place with Veterans' Administration officials concerning the need for the legislation in an attempt to secure the administration's support of the bill. I am hopeful that support will be forthcoming and that favorable action will be taken on the bill in the very near future.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORTS

Mr. METCALF. Mr. President, the January 1975 issue of the Monthly List of GAO Reports contains a listing of information gathered in the course of investigations by GAO staff. Of current interest is a report on the Department of Labor's plan to publish in the Federal Register a list of applicants, businesses, and industries pending certification as required by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. The Department will seek comments from all interested parties within 2 weeks after publication in the Register. This and other reports may be obtained from the GAO office. In view of the interest in these reports, I ask unanimous consent that the full listing be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the listing was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MONTHLY LIST OF GAO REPORTS

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Observations on Evaluation of the Special Supplemental Food Program.

Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, December 18. RED-75-310.

This is GAO's second report on the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, which authorizes a special program for women, infants, and children through fiscal year 1975.

Attempts to determine and evaluate medical benefits or nutritional assistance to humans are limited by certain inherent problems.

Although steps have been taken to deal with these problems, they cannot practically be overcome and must be recognized as precluding a conclusive determination of the program's benefits.

Department of Labor's Practice of Obtaining Labor Union Comments in Making Certifications Required by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, December 16, released December 20 by Senator Clifford P. Hansen. RED-75-292.

The Department suspended its practice of soliciting AFL-CIO comments in August 1974. Instead, it plans to publish in the Federal Register a list of applicants, businesses, and industries pending certification, asking for comments from all interested parties within 2 weeks.

Business and industrial loan and grant programs and the requirement for Labor's certifications were added to the Consolidated Act by the Rural Development Act of 1972.