

## Disaster Assistance for New York

### *Announcement of Disaster Declaration and Authorization of Federal Assistance Following Storms and Flooding. July 24, 1974*

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of New York as a result of severe storms and flooding, beginning about July 3, which caused damage to public and private property. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of the repair or restoration of damaged streets, roads, bridges, and public facilities and utilities. Low-interest-rate disaster loans for homeowners and businesses will be made available by the Small Business Administration under the authorities of Public Law 93-24, and emergency loan assistance will be made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

Federal relief activities in New York 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, based upon Federal and State damage assessments.

Mr. Thomas R. Casey, Regional Director for Federal Disaster Assistance, HUD Region 2, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

NOTE: The announcement was released at San Clemente, Calif.

## Supreme Court Decision

### *Remarks of Special Counsel to the President James D. St. Clair, Together With a Statement by the President Announcing Full Compliance With the Court Decision Requiring Production of Presidential Tape Recordings. July 24, 1974*

I have reviewed the decision of the Supreme Court with the President. He has given me this statement, which he has asked me to read to you. I quote:

"My challenge in the courts to the subpoena of the Special Prosecutor was based on the belief it was unconstitutional issued and on my strong desire to protect the principle of Presidential confidentiality in a system of separation of powers.

"While I am of course disappointed in the result, I respect and accept the Court's decision, and I have instructed Mr. St. Clair to take whatever measures are necessary to comply with that decision in all respects.

"For the future, it will be essential that the special circumstances of this case not be permitted to cloud the rights of Presidents to maintain the basic confidentiality without which this office cannot function. I was gratified, therefore, to note that the Court reaffirmed both the validity and the importance of the principle of executive privilege—the principle I had sought to maintain. By complying fully with the Court's ruling in this case, I hope and trust that I will contribute to strengthening rather than weakening this principle for the future—so that this will prove to be not the precedent that destroyed the principle, but the action that preserved it."

As we all know, the President has always been a firm believer in the rule of law. He intends his decision to comply fully with the Court's ruling as an action in furtherance of that belief.

In accordance with his instructions, the time-consuming process of reviewing the tapes subject to the subpoena and the preparation of the index and analysis required by Judge Sirica's order will begin forthwith.

NOTE: Mr. St. Clair spoke at approximately 4 p.m. at the Surf and Sand Hotel, Laguna Beach, Calif. His remarks were broadcast live on radio and television; they were not issued in the form of a White House press release.

## Federal Regional Councils

### *Announcement of Appointment of Chairmen of the 10 Councils. July 25, 1974*

The President today announced the appointment of the chairmen of the 10 Federal Regional Councils for fiscal year 1975.

DAVID W. HAYS, Regional Representative of the Secretary of Transportation, Region I, Boston.

S. WILLIAM GREEN,\* Regional Administrator, Housing and Urban Development, Region II, New York.

DANIEL J. SNYDER III, Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Philadelphia.

JACK E. RAVEN,\* Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, Atlanta.

GOV. NORMAN A. ERBE,\* Regional Representative of the Secretary of Transportation, Region V, Chicago.

ED FOREMAN, Regional Representative of the Secretary of Transportation, Region VI, Dallas.

ELMER E. SMITH,\* Regional Administrator, Housing and Urban Development, Region VII, Kansas City.

SAMUEL MARTINEZ, Regional Director, Department of Labor, Region VIII, Denver.

WEBSTER OTIS, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Region IX, San Francisco.

BERNARD KELLY,\* Regional Director, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Region X, Seattle.

Federal Regional Councils are located in the 10 regional headquarter cities and are composed of the regional heads of the nine major Federal grantmaking agencies: Department of Agriculture; Department of Health, Education,

\*Reappointed.