



Government Proposes Changes in Financial Aid

By now each of you has probably heard on the evening news and read in your local or university newspaper about President Reagan's proposed changes to the Federal student financial assistance programs sponsored by the Department of Education. I would like to take this opportunity to explain the budget we have requested.

The key principle behind this proposal is that a simplified and consolidated student aid program will benefit both the student and the American taxpayer financing the student aid programs. Simplification will also dramatically reduce the administrative burden which your institutions now face in administering the six Federal aid programs. Reducing this burden will improve your institution's ability to deliver student aid.

We have asked Congress not to provide new funding for the State Student Incentive Grant Program (SSIG), the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (SEOG), and the National Direct Student Loan Program (NDSL). We've asked Congress to increase funding for College Work-Study (CWS) and Pell Grants. Under the new budget we expect a higher loan volume and a higher loan average

for the Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSL).

SSIG was established in 1972 in order to provide states an incentive to establish their own grant and scholarship programs. Currently all states have met this challenge and offer very attractive scholarship and grant programs. Known under a variety of different names, these state programs awarded over 1 billion dollars last year. Thus, after 11 years, the incentive provided by the SSIG program has successfully generated more dollars than the Federal government could possibly have hoped.

SEOG was designed to supplement the Pell Grant. Administered by the financial aid office on the campus, the program was to provide students with the financial means necessary to have some choice in which institution to attend. The problem with SEOG is that it is not targeted to help those students who really need federal assistance. If our proposed budget is accepted by the Congress, the new Self-help Grant program will provide needy students with the choice previously reserved for the privileged.

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LANSING PIPELINE

Forest Service Considering Sale of Lands

Last year the federal government instituted a program to study the possible disposal of federal lands no longer needed by the government.

As the first phase of this "Asset Management Program" which was developed by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture (the two largest federal landholders), divided all federal property into three categories. These categories consisted of land definitely to be retained, i.e. all Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national recreation areas and national monuments; land initially identified as excess which the agencies already have authority to sell; and the third and largest group made up of the remainder of

lands, which were to be reviewed for possible further study.

A mild uproar resulted from erroneous media reports grouping the further study lands with the excess lands and alleging that most of our national forests were going to be placed for sale.

The further study of the 140 million acres of National Forest System lands placed in the third category began in November and recently was completed. Only six million acres fit the necessary criteria for more intense study. The remaining 134 million acres have been placed in the retention category along with the 51 million acres initially assigned to this group. The

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Talk Back to Representatives

by Jenni Ritzler

Are you a silent citizen? How often have you been mad about what is or isn't happening in your community, state and even country and have never expressed your personal views to the people who can do something about it; your elected representatives?

As a taxpayer, you are paying state and federal legislators to represent you. So let them know what you think, whether it is the President of the United States to your Mayor or City Council members. By telling them your needs and thoughts concerning current issues and legislative proposals, they can work for you.

One of the best ways to get results is through correspondence. By taking a few minutes to write a letter, you can either get answers to your questions or put your elected official on notice that you have something at stake in a certain issue.

Elected officials welcome personal letters from their constituents and very often respond to those that are polite, that make sense and that bear upon an issue.

Letters that are kept simple, clear, direct and brief will often have a tremendous impact. Here are a few points to keep in mind when writing letters: Write the letter yourself, using your views and not someone else's. Keep the letter as simple and brief as possible, but not so terse the letter is not clear. Write when a letter is still timely, not after an issue has already been voted on. Give your reasons, at least the most important ones, and if you have some special knowledge on an issue share it. Make sure you identify a legislative bill by number, if one is involved in an issue. Be constructive, and if you think the legislator has done a good job, why not let him or her know.

Above all: Don't make threats or promises. Don't pretend you have vast political influence. Also don't scold the official, or rant at him or her.

Here's how to address letters to your lawmakers:

Senator Donald W. Riegle Jr.
Senator Carl Levin
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Robert W. Davis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Connie Binsfeld
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Mich. 48902

Rep. John D. Pridnia
House of Representatives
Lansing, Mich. 48909

Rep. Tom Alley
House of Representatives
Lansing, Mich. 48909
(Iosco)

Getting it all off your chest is important. Now, just be sure the letter gets mailed.

Clute Makes Presentation

by Lynn Lightner

Mr. Richard Clute recently gave an oral presentation at Eastern Michigan University to the anthropology department of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

The presentation consisted of a paper Clute had written, entitled "Archaeology Survey in Winter: A Possible Method." The paper was born from the technique Clute used to do some winter archaeology survey testing for the U.S. Forest Service of the Huron National Forest.

Clute stated that to his knowledge this type of thing-winter archaeology surveying-has never been done before. The obvious reason for this being such a rarity is because of the high cost factors involved, especially in extra labor. Clute also added that the project and presentation stimulated discussion on possible ways of surveying to meet unusual needs.