$ Billion Education, Health Fund May Help Local Schools

PRES. NIXON
finds Christmas gift for school, health programs

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Nixon has ordered release of nearly $1 billion in federal funds for health and school programs that he had withheld in fiscal year 1973 to curb government spending.

The money will begin flowing immediately and will be added to the amount budgeted for the current bookeeping year in the $32.9 billion appropriation measure Nixon signed Wednesday for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare, HEW officials said. Some will be spent in 1975 as well.

About $466 million will go for school projects, mostly for special reading and mathematics instruction for needy children, with $334 million for health, primarily for biomedical research and training, HEW said. However, some of this money was among $400 million the administration had released before Nixon signed the new appropriation bill.

The overall $966 million which Nixon ordered released had been appropriated by congress, but the administration refused to spend it, which is called "impounding." Twenty-eight suits had been filed to free the funds.

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Frank C. Carlucci, HEW undersecretary, said at a news briefing the addition of the funds to the current fiscal 1974 budget "is going to build in pressures for higher budgets in 1975."

Carlucci said appropriated HEW funds are not being impounded in fiscal 1974. He left open the question whether they would be in 1975.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said the freeing of HEW funds did not commit Nixon to free funds withheld for highway and environmental programs.

The HEW money bill includes a provision allowing the president to withhold $400 million from the $32.0 billion. Carlucci said HEW intends to use that authority, which cannot exceed 5 per cent for any single program.

The National Association, representing 1.4 million classroom teachers, reluctantly endorsed the new Appropriations Bill.

"While we're grateful that the congress and the President, at the urging of teachers, were finally able to get together on a money bill for education and other human resources, we have serious reservations about the complete compromise package," said Helen D. Wise, NEA president.

Dr. Patterson says Baltimore will welcome more school $$$

Dr. Roland Patterson, superintendent of Baltimore public schools told the AFRO Thursday morning the money which could come to Baltimore from the $ Billion President Nixon has released, will be welcome here.

He said he did not know when such funds will reach Baltimore but comments more money can certainly help.

Dr. Patterson said, "I think it is a very fortunate occurance. Baltimore does stand to receive some funds. We don't know at this point how much. Our needs and the number of children to be served are sufficient to make it important for us to be able to utilize these additional funds as soon as possible."

Community leaders honored by Mayor at City Hall

Some 29 outstanding community leaders in public housing were honored Thursday by Mayor Schaefer and Housing Commissioner Robert C. Embry Jr. in the presentation of the Harry B. Weiss Citizenship Awards.

The award honors the late Harry B. Weiss, a former director of Housing Management and seeks to bring recognition to those residents who have made personal contributions to community activities.

Of the 29 outstanding leaders, 12 received cash and certificates of merit and 17 received honorable mention.

This year, 23 of the 29 award recipients are black citizens and for the first time in many years, teenagers and men, usually not in the forefront of community involvement, were cited.

Winners were selected by a committee of Mrs. Harry B. Weiss, three staff representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development, two members of the Resident Advisory Board and former Weiss Award Winners.

Merit winners are:

Mrs. Yvonne Atkins, Brentwood Forrest; Mrs. Theresa Burke, Flag House Courts; Ronald Farmer, Lafayette Courts; George Garrison, Westport/Mt. Winons.

Also, Mrs. Zelma Haines, Douglass Homes; Mrs. Gwendolyn Johnson, Cherry Hill Homes; Mrs. Mary LeCount, McCulloh Homes; Mrs. Bertina Phipps, Gilmor Homes and Gerard Young, Murphy Homes.

Receiving honorable mention certificates are: Mrs. Mary A. Daniel, Claremont Homes; Mrs. Gertrude Dickerson, The Broadway; Mrs. Margaret Dixon, Lakeview Tower; Mrs. Pearle Henry, Lexington — Poe Homes; Mrs. Inez Hooper, Flag House Courts; Mrs. Rita Hunter, Lexington — Poe Homes; Mrs. Alice Johnson, Lafayette Courts; William Laws, McCulloh Homes.

Mrs. Carrie Polk, Perkins Homes; Mrs. Louise Russell, Somerset Courts; Linwood Taylor, Cherry Hill Homes; Mrs. Grace Thomas, Somerset Courts; Mrs. Shirley Walker, The Broadway; Mrs. Dorothy Ward, LUV Program; Earl West, O'Donnell Heights and Samuel Young, Lakeview Tower.

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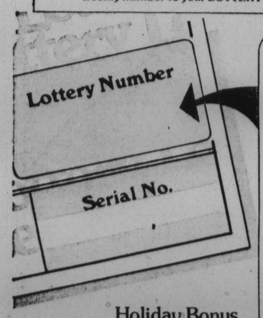

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HISTORY-MAKING DISCRIMINATION CASE

Mr. Pettitt wins suit for $140,000 back pay from U.S government

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Court of Claims handed down a decision Dec. 19 in favor of the Plaintiff, George D. Pettit, an human factor engineer at Aberdeen Proving Ground, in an action for back pay, totaling more than $14,000.

The suit brought by a Dwight Pettit, the Baltimore lawyer son of the plaintiff, alleged that the Plaintiff had been denied promotional opportunity at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, since 1958, due to racial discrimination.

The suit further alleged that such discrimination was gross, flagrant and overt, directly aimed at the Plaintiff due to his participation in the desegregation of the Harford County Public Schools in 1958.

The Plaintiff's attorney, A. Dwight Pettit, was the Plaintiff in that desegregation suit, decided in 1958, in the U.S. District Court in Maryland and decided in favor of the Plaintiff.

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In the action before the US., Court of Claims, sitting in Washington, the Plaintiff asked for $60,000 in back pay, $10,000.00 attorney fees, $20,000 in interest and $60,000 in future losses, unless an immediate GS-14 is ordered by the Court.

Prior to the action being filed, the plaintiff had remained in GS-11 grade for 12 years. The case had gone through the administrative process for three years, prior to the court action under the counsel of Attorney Juanita Jackson Mitchell.

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In the administrative process, discrimination was found by the Army Material Command, but the Civil Service Commission held that the executive orders upon which the action had been brought, was insufficient to establish a legal basis for back pay in such an action.

The U.S. Court of Claims in prior cases, disagreeing with Justice Blackman, who had followed such reasoning when on the U.S. Court of appeals, had stated that the Executive Orders of five (5) Presidents had established a legal basis for back pay and when the proper case arose, it would award relief.

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Such action, by the U.S. Court of Claims, now establishes a separate basis of action for Federal employees, who have suffered discrimination in the Federal service.

Federal employees nation-wide may now file for relief in the U.S. Court of Claims on the Executive Orders without limitation as to the length of retroactivity.

However, the U.S. Court of Claims, sitting in full (7 judges) did not itself reward the monetary relief requested, but remanded the Pettit case back to the Civil Service Commission to determine, when such promotions should have occurred and the amounts involved therein.

If the United States appeals from the decision, such an appeal would have to go directly to the United States Supreme Court.

DWIGHT PETTITT
attorney wins case for his father.

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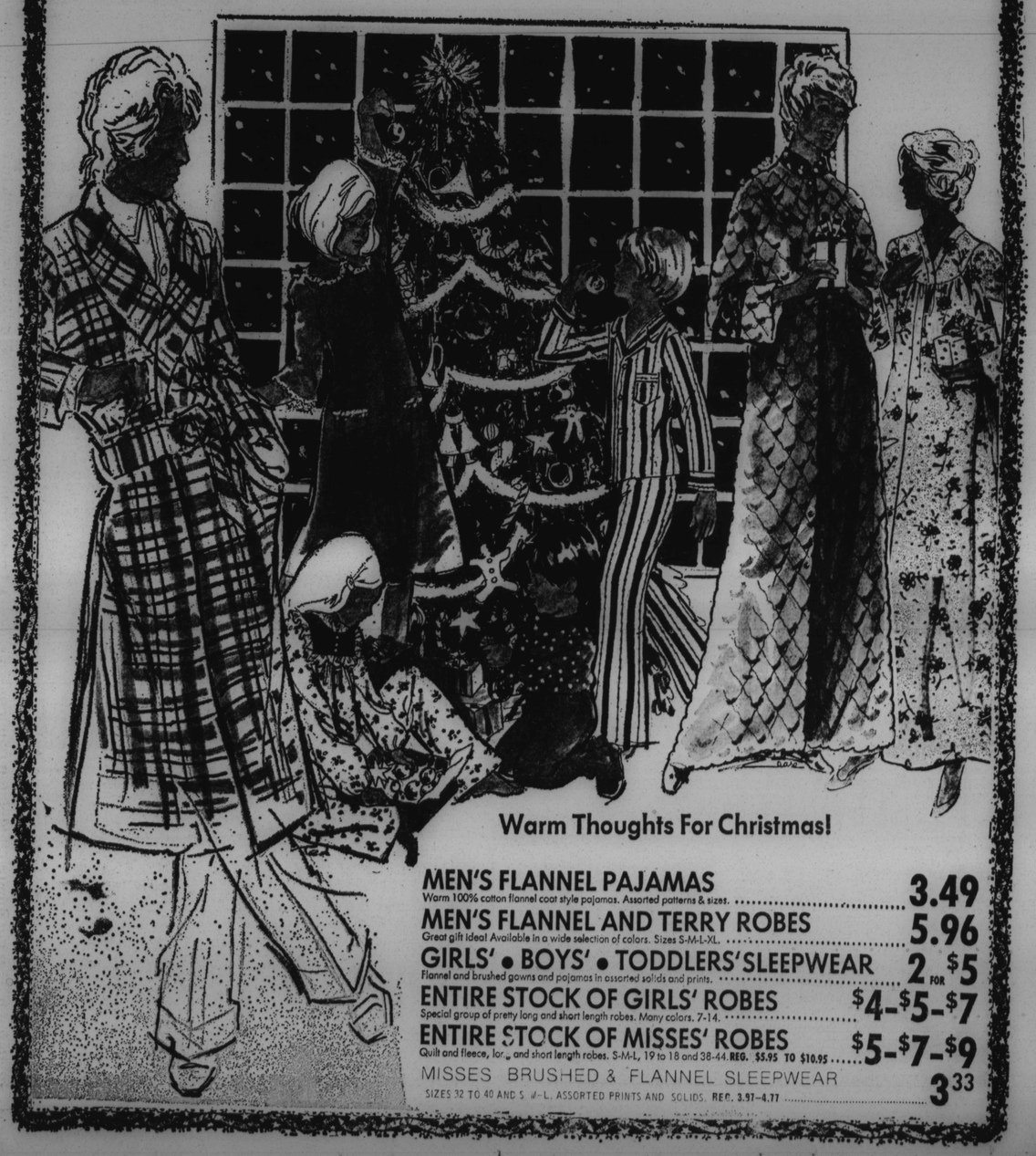

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