

# Bill agreed upon for jobs and aid

## Authorizes \$5.5 billion in funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate-House conferees agreed Tuesday on a compromise bill authorizing \$5.5 billion for thousands of public service jobs and other new help for unemployed Americans.

The emergency legislation would be a companion for a \$1.1-billion emergency unemployment compensation bill, designed to guarantee most jobless persons a full 52 weeks of benefits, which has cleared both Senate and House and is awaiting House approval of Senate-passed minor technical amendment.

Later Tuesday, based on the swift movement of these two bills in Congress, the House Appropriations Committee approved an urgent money bill including \$4 billion for public service jobs and extended unemployment compensation benefits.

The money measure also would provide \$811.7 million for expanded veterans benefits, \$10.2 million in interim operating aid for the Penn Central Railroad under the regional rail reorganization law, and \$2.47 million to begin implementing the new law on commodities futures trading. House action on this bill is expected Wednesday.

The Senate-House conference committee's measure is expected to gain swift congressional action as well.

"I think it is a major contribution to dealing with a very serious crisis, an economic crisis, in this country, and fulfills one of the essential elements of the program needed in relieving the distress — so far as we can — of the unemployed," said Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N. Y.

As the conferees emerged from their closed-door session, Javits, senior GOP member of the Senate Labor Committee, said he is convinced President Ford will sign the bill. A House vote on the compromise could come Wednesday.

The compromise measure would authorize:

-\$2.5 billion for an estimated 330,000 public service jobs covering a wide range of work from education and health care to sanitation and transit employment.

-\$500 million for public works projects and similar job-creating activities.

-\$2.5 billion in emergency unemployment compensation benefits covering persons presently not entitled to such aid. This amount is based on an estimated average annual 6.5 per cent unemployment. There are an estimated 10 million to 12 million such persons — mainly farm workers, domestics and state and local employees.

This package covering the coming year would be a companion to legislation setting up a new federally financed two-year emergency unemployment compensation program costing roughly \$1 billion annually, bringing benefits in 1975 and 1976 to persons long out of work who have exhausted existing relief. That bill also awaits final congressional action.

Under terms of the compromise,

### 55 still limit until April 1

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Highway Commission extended the 55 miles per hour maximum speed limit Tuesday to April 1.

Even though the limit is required by federal law, the legislature required the commission to review the situation every 120 days.

The legislature authorized the commission in December 1973 to lower the top speed limit on Texas highways from 70 miles per hour to comply with federal law.

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as outlined by aides to the conferees, the money being authorized for the emergency jobs portion would be targeted through formula.

Essentially, it would distribute 50 per cent to all states and areas based on their share of the number of persons unemployed nationally, 25 per cent to localized pockets of concentrated unemployment of 6.5 per cent or higher, and 25 per cent to larger cities and counties for their unemployment that is in excess of 4.5 per cent. November's unemployment nationwide was 6.5 per cent.

Aides to the conferees said they expect the average public service jobs would pay \$7,800 a year.

As Congress pushed to adjourn this week, there were these other actions:

-Senate and House conferees approved a compromise extending U. S. military aid to Turkey until Feb. 5.

-The House sent to President Ford a bill designed to help veterans get home loans and to open up the program to the purchase of condominiums.

-A White House spokesman said Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller is scheduled to be sworn in Thursday night after the House votes on his nomination.

-President Ford signed a bill providing new national standards for drinking water.

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