
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: DENNIS MANGRUM: FEDERAL FUNDS FOR HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE
DATE 12/28/00
CC: FILE

Per your request, I contacted the Department of Energy to inquire as to if President Clinton has recently released approximately \$150 million for home heating assistance. Betty Nolan of DOE's Intergovernmental Relations Office called back yesterday afternoon and said that such funds have not been released or announced. She said that there are two related matters that have been in the news:

- Members of Congress have been calling on Secretary of Energy Richardson to release fuel from the northeastern reserve in anticipation of a shortage of heating fuels this winter. Nolan said that Secretary Richardson has no plans to release any of the reserve because he is monitoring the situation and does not feel that such a move is substantiated at this time.
- There has also been a push for the President to authorize additional Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds, but he has no plans to do so at this time. The funds would be released to the Department of Energy and then distributed in conjunction with state health and human services agencies.

I called Dennis Mangrum (662-563-4793) with this information. Clark Graeber (662-326-2481) was in Mr. Mangrum's office and asked to speak to me. I shared the information with him as well. He said that the Commercial Appeal had run an article in the last few days saying that funds had been released. He urged you to look into opening shelters in Panola and Quitman counties as he anticipates a large number of people not able to afford home heating due to abnormal prices (twice as much as last year). I explained that MEMA would probably monitor the need for shelters due to weather conditions. He said that he had contacted some Quitman County supervisors to urge them to look into shelters and that the supervisors were to discuss the matter with area legislators at a meeting last night.

I located a December 25th article in the Commercial Appeal that discussed the high price of fuel this winter, but it did not say that any additional federal funds had been released.