

## Human Resources

# Rises Are Big for Social Needs, Mostly on Current Programs

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 24—The Nixon Administration's new budget calls for increases, dramatic in some areas, for social needs. But the gains are largely a result of legislation already enacted or long pending. The budget discloses little in the way of major social initiatives.

Total spending for the poor, for example, will go up about \$1-billion—to \$31.7-billion. That is an increase of about 3 per cent.

But almost all the gain is accounted for by already mandated changes, such as the enlargement of antihunger programs, or proposed measures, like welfare reform and Social Security increases.

Similar findings are evident in other aspects of the human resources facet of the new budget—crime, manpower, civil rights and programs for the aging.

Following are the plans in various categories:

**Aging:**—Total spending to benefit older adults will reach an estimated total of \$50-billion, \$6-billion more than in the 1972 fiscal year. Virtually all of this would be required under legislation already proposed.

One initiative concerns a special agency for the aging, for which President Nixon has promised a \$100-million funding level—an increase, in his words, of "fivefold over last year's request."

The effect of this pledge is open to debate. Congress has already appropriated \$100-million for the current year. Thus, it could be argued that the Administration is merely catching up.

**Hunger:**—Spending for antihunger programs has already quadrupled in four years and another increase, of \$269-million, is budgeted for next year. This would bring total food assistance spending to \$4.1-billion.

Actual costs may go still higher, since participation rates under newly liberalized regulations cannot be accurately predicted. But officials say that funds will be provided for all eligible participants.

**Manpower:**— A sharp increase, from \$4.3-billion to \$5.1-billion, is budgeted for manpower, training and employment services. More than half the increase is for the Congressionally mandated emergency employment programs, to increase public service jobs.

Total spending for employment services to veterans will increase 21 per cent, to \$320-million.

**CRIME:**—The budget for the four-year-old Law Enforcement Assistance Administration continues to rise, going up \$158-million more, to \$850-million.

**POVERTY:**—The budget of the Office of Economic Opportunity is up 6 per cent after a 9 per cent cut last year.

The new total, allowing for spinoffs to other agencies, is \$758-million, compared with \$713-million in the current fiscal year. Of the increase, \$30-million is proposed for enlarged research and evaluation.

**CIVIL RIGHTS:**—A new Federal analysis of civil rights spending by all agencies shows a 25 per cent increase, to nearly \$2.6-billion. Half of the increase is accounted for by a program, so far only partly funded by Congress, for emergency aid to desegregating schools.

Other gains include \$100-million (to a total of \$1.2-billion) for assistance to Indians on reservations, and \$90-million (to a total of \$716-million) for minority business enterprise assistance.

Spending for predominantly black colleges will total more than \$200-million. The Office of Management and Budget said it could not give a comparable figure for the current fiscal year.