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Folder: New York City Relief, 7/30/77

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1977

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

MEMORANDUM FOR: PRESIDENT CARTER
FROM: HAMILTON JORDAN H.J.
SUBJECT: Relief for New York City

As I understand it, NYC has requested \$14 million in "disaster relief," and you have already approved \$11 million in financial aid (though that is technically not part of the requested "disaster relief.")

As I understand it, the difference in our "doing everything we can do for NYC" and our being vulnerable to criticism that "we don't care" or "we don't understand the severity of their problem" is \$3 million.

Some of our political critics and some of the New York City press have already made progress in painting a picture of you as a shrewd and uncaring manager who, because of your Southern rural background, don't understand and/or care about cities generally and New York City particularly. If the \$3 million additional monies can be used beneficently, I would strongly recommend that we provide these additional funds to the city.

Everyone who has been there describes the situation as much worse than can be imagined sitting down here in Washington.

I think that we can save ourselves a lot of political problems in the future by proceeding with additional assistance for the city and correct the growing impression that "Carter doesn't care."