



NEWS RELEASE

LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR HOLLAND REDFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY AND LIAISON TO THE WHITE HOUSE, VOICED HIS EXTREME CONCERNS ON THE POTENTIAL REAGAN BUDGET CUTS WITH REGARD TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL IMPACT TO THE TERRITORY.

REDFIELD SAID WEDNESDAY THAT HE IS CONCERNED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S APPARENT FAILURE TO REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MONIES WHICH WOULD COME TO THE TERRITORY, PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS IS THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR THIS HAS OCCURRED.

"IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME AFTER A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THIS MATTER THAT SOMEONE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FELL ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH," SAID REDFIELD, "AND THE PROBLEM IS FURTHER COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNOR IS GOING TO BE COMING TO THE LEGISLATURE WITH A FIFTY-MILLION-DOLLAR DEFICIT WHILE ASKING US TO COME UP WITH FURTHER MONIES FROM OUR ALREADY OVERTAXED VIRGIN ISLANDS PEOPLE."

REDFIELD SAID HE WILL BE CONTACTING LEE VERSTANDIG, THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS RICHARD MONTOYA, UNDERSECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FOR TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, TO EXPRESS THE LONG AND SHORT TERM EFFECTS THESE BUDGET CUTS WILL HAVE ON THE ALREADY UNSTABLE VIRGIN ISLANDS ECONOMY.

REDFIELD EMPHASIZED THAT UNLESS THESE BUDGET AREAS ARE TEMPERED, THE LONG TERM FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGION WILL BE HARMED, AND STRESSED THAT FOR THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY OF THE TERRITORY IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT.