

CONSERVATION FUND CUT SEEN

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Dick Clark (Dem., Ia.) said Friday that he had learned the Nixon administration might impound \$75 million of the \$175 million appropriated by Congress for aid to rural soil and water conservation programs.

The funds are used to help farmers pay part of the costs involved in installing soil and water conservation practices. The aid is available to farmers under the Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP), which was a part of the 1973 farm act.

RECP replaces to some extent the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP), which was in effect until federal funding was halted this year by the Nixon administration.

Clark voiced strong objection to reducing the federal aid for conservation work.

"REAP is a long-standing conservation cost-sharing program that was stripped of its funds earlier by such impoundments," Clark said.

"RECP, also a cost-sharing conservation program, was created in the 1973 Farm Act as a supplement to and an expansion of REAP.

"Congress set the funding level for both programs at \$175 million, with no distinction as to how much each of the measures would receive.

"Impoundment of these funds would show a complete and utter disregard for our nation's rural needs and for the will of Congress."