EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 85-5

PROVIDING FOR A DECLARATION OF ECONOMIC EMERGENCY AND APPOINTING A COMMISSION

I, RUDY PERPICH, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, the economy of the state of Minnesota has shown a remarkable recovery from the economic recessions of recent years; and

WHEREAS, this recovery has not been uniform throughout the state, and some counties continue to experience high unemployment and severe economic distress; and

WHEREAS, agricultural sectors of the state are suffering from a nationwide decline in commodity prices and other problems; and

WHEREAS, state government can play a role in helping to relieve these problems and this distress.

NOW, THEREFORE, I ORDER:

1. A state of economic emergency shall be deemed to exist in those counties in Minnesota where:
   a. unemployment exceeds 8% for the entire workforce, or:
   b. the principal occupation of more than 10% of the working population is agriculture.
For purposes of this Order, the Director of the State Planning Agency shall certify to me, based upon the most recent available information, the counties included in this definition.

2. There is created an Economic Crisis Commission to advise me and members of the Legislature on the matters specified in paragraph 3 of this Order. The Commission shall consist of representation from the public and private sectors in Minnesota including members of the Legislature. Members shall represent affected geographical areas of the state and affected financial institutions, labor organizations, higher education institutions and individuals.

3. The Commission shall provide for me and the members of the Legislature, within 30 days of the execution of this Order, recommendations for the most effective utilization of available state resources to help meet the economic needs of persons and businesses in the affected areas of the state. For purposes of this Order, available resources shall include moneys and other resources available for expenditure in fiscal year 1985 and moneys and resources identified for expenditure in the Administration's proposed fiscal 1986-1987 budget. In analyzing available resources, the Commission shall consider, but shall not be limited to considering, the following:

1. available emergency funding sources such as the General Contingent Account and Executive Council funds
2. remaining MEED, JTPA and other "jobs" funds
3. higher education program funds such as the Agricultural Extension
4. anticipated funds available for expenditure by the 1985 session of the Legislature
5. programs administered by the Department of Energy and Economic Development
6. funds administered by the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board
7. special state/federal and state/local sources such as housing, UDAG, SBA, EDA and FmHA funds

The Commission shall recommend how these and other resources should be allocated to help affected persons and businesses located in the counties identified pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Order. In addition, the Commission shall prepare an implementation schedule for the allocation of these resources.

4. In respect to the needs of Minnesota agriculture, the Commission shall review and give its advice on pending proposals to employ state funds to help underwrite the costs of farm operating loans. The Commission shall recommend state actions that should be taken in respect to anticipated foreclosures of mortgages on Minnesota farms, and shall consider how best to target aid to those Minnesota farmers who can best benefit from state assistance programs.
5. In making its recommendations on the utilization of resources, the Commission shall recognize and accommodate the need to preserve resources to assist unemployed or impoverished persons who do not reside in the counties affected by this order.

6. There is also created an Economic Crisis Working Group consisting of the heads of the following state agencies to advise, provide staff support to, and otherwise assist the Commission:

   a. State Planning Agency
   b. Department of Energy and Economic Development
   c. Department of Agriculture
   d. Department of Finance
   e. Department of Human Services
   f. Department of Economic Security
   g. Department of Natural Resources
   h. Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board
   i. Housing Finance Agency
   j. Minnesota Emergency Employment Development Office

   Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 4.835, this Order shall be effective fifteen (15) days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until July 1, 1985.

   IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 29th day of January, 1985.

   [Signature]
   Rudy Perpich
   Governor

   Filed according to law:

   [Signature]
   Joan Anderson Crowe
   Secretary of State