

In Cobol, large amount of spaces between records due to variable definition

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I am building a variable that gets notes from an input file. The variable may end up containing notes that may be 1 character or made up of up to 1900 characters. I use this one variable for writing to an output file. In Cobol, I'm assuming I have to define this variable in the Working-Storage:

```
01 THE-NOTE-STRING-COMPLETE PIC X(1900).
```

I'm assuming I have to make it this variable 1900 characters since the notes can get that big. They are then written to the output file:

```
FD PNOTES-NEW-OUT  
LABEL RECORDS ARE STANDARD.  
01 PNOTES-NEW-OUT-RECORD.  
05 WK3-PNOTES-COMPLETE-LINE PIC X(1900).
```

When it writes to the output file, due to the variable being defined at 1900 characters, there may be a large amount of spaces between records because the previous record has only a small amount of notes. In the example below, the "~PRICE VALID TILL STOCK OUT" is the only notes for that record, so there are almost 1900 spaces between the end of that record and the next:

```
=====EXAMPLE=====  
~PRICE VALID TILL STOCK OUT
```

Up to almost 1900 spaces between the 2 records!!

```
HAZARDOUS(1) MTRL, PACK PER CFR~TOLUENE(1); FLASH POINT 6 TO END OF  
LINE~SHIP(1)
```

```
=====END OF EXAMPLE=====
```

I want all the trailing spaces in each record eliminated. I don't know how this can be done since the variable is defined at 1900 characters. And I didn't think Cobol allowed you to have a "variable-sized" variable. I feel like I'm going about this in the wrong manner and don't know how to remedy this issue. Can you

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help? Thank you!

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