

January 3, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed the following bills:

- H. R. 8981 - Trademark Act Amendments
- H. R. 5463 - Rules of Evidence
- S. 663 - Judicial Review of Decisions of ICC
- H. R. 12113 - General Accounting Office Act of 1974
- S. 3358 - Trust Land - Absentee Shawnee Tribe
- S. 3359 - Trust Land, Pottawatomie Indians
- S. 521 - Trust Land, Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe
- S. 2888 - Trust Land, Inter-Tribal Council
- H. R. 8214 - Tax Relief for POWs and MIAs

- H. R. 17450 - D. C. People's Counsel
- H. R. 12427 - Amends Merchant Marine Act
- S. J. Res. 133 - Indian Policy Review Commission
- H. R. 12044 - Hensley Lake
- S. 3289 - Land Exchange-Kaniksu National Forest
- H. R. 17010 - Dept. of Justice Working Capital Fund
- H. R. 16045 - Extension of Solid Waste Disposal Act
- S. 2149 - Benefits to members of Coast Guard Reserve
- H. R. 8591 - Active lists appointments for certain military officers
- H. R. 13022 - Minimum grade standards for grapes and plums
- H. R. 17628 - names Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- S. 4073 - Extension of Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- H. R. 14718 - Modification of Reporting Requirements
- H. R. 1820 - Land to Arkansas
- H. R. 17558 - Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. Administrator
- S. 2446 - Relief of Charles William Thomas
- H. R. 1715 - Relief of Paul C. Amedeo
- H. R. 7684 - Relief of Nicola Lomuscio
- H. R. 2208 - Relief of Raymond W. Suchy
- H. R. 9182 - Relief of Fernando Labrador del Rosario
- H. R. 10827 - Relief of Kiyonao Okami
- H. R. 14461 - Relief of Judith Sterling
- H. R. 3203 - Relief of Nepty Masauo Jones
- S. 544 - State Lotteries
- H. R. 9588 - Relief of the City of Aransas Pass, Texas
- H. R. 15229 - Tort Claims Involving Canal Zone Govt.

- H. R. 5264 - Excess Federal Property

- H. R. 7767 - Relief of Samuel Cabildo Jose
- H. R. 9654 - Relief of Mr. Aldo Massara
- H. R. 3339 - Relief of Delmira DeBow

The President has withheld his signature from:

- H. R. 17085 - Nurse Training Act of 1974

January 3, 1975

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 5264 - Excess Federal Property in Samoa, Guam and the Pacific Trust Territories -- which amends the laws regarding the disposal of excess and surplus Federal property in American Samoa, Guam, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The bill will place Samoa, Guam and the Pacific Trusts under the domestic property provisions, and in the same status as that now enjoyed by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. This will allow Federal surplus property in these areas to continue to be available for public purposes such as for educational, public health, civil defense, or similar purposes and to make it available to the public through a competitive bidding process. It will also allow property disposed of in these areas to be brought back to the U. S. without requiring approval of the Secretaries of Commerce and Agriculture.

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 8981, the Trademark Act amendments, which makes changes in the Trademark Act to extend the time for filing oppositions, eliminate the requirement for filing "reasons of appeal" in the Patent Office, and award attorneys fees in trademark cases.

The Trademark Act permits any person to oppose the registration of a trademark within 30 days of its official notice. Existing law allows the Commissioner to extend this 30-day period when good cause is shown.

This legislation will provide an automatic 30-day extension. All further extensions would require good cause to be shown. Under the bill, the majority of trademarks which are unopposed could continue to be registered in 30 days while parties opposing registrations would be relieved of the need to file lengthy reasons for extensions.

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 5463, Rules of Evidence, which provides a uniform code of evidence for use in Federal courts and makes conforming amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

The bill establishes for the first time a uniform code of evidence for use in Federal courts and makes appropriate conforming amendments to other rules.

In 1963 the Judicial Conference of the United States recommended that the Chief Justice appoint an advisory committee on rules of evidence for use in the Federal courts. The advisory committee on rules of evidence for use in the Federal courts. The advisory committee recommended rules which were approved by the Judicial Conference in 1970. The rules were promulgated by the court in November 1972.

In 1973, the Chief Justice, pursuant to the Supreme Court order of November 1972, transmitted the proposed rules to the Congress.

The bill codifies in large part, the rules as proposed by the Supreme Court although there were some deletions and changes made during consideration by Congress.

In addition, the bill changes the method by which rules of evidence are promulgated and it would provide that any further change in the rules which may be proposed by the Supreme Court and transmitted to the Congress will become effective 180 days after such transmission unless either House of Congress acts to defer the effective date. The one exception is that the law of privilege will be treated as a special case and require affirmative Congressional action.

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January 3, 1975

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 663 - Judicial Review of Decisions of Interstate Commerce Commission, which amends the United States Code with respect to judicial review of decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The bill will expand the procedures of the Judicial Review Act to cover the ICC. This would:

- transfer to the court of appeals the orders now reviewed by a three-judge court;
- limit review by the Supreme Court to cases taken by the discretionary writ of certiorari; and
- limit multiple suits against a single agency

In addition, the bill will:

- make other changes designed to simplify and streamline judicial review of ICC cases while retaining existing procedure in most material respects;
- continue the existing practice which allows the ICC to intervene as a party in interest before the Supreme Court as a matter of right, notwithstanding any objection by the Department of Justice.

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January 3, 1975

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 12113 - General Accounting Office Act of 1974 - which revises and strengthens certain authorities and functions of the Comptroller General, mostly in regard to the General Accounting Office's auditing responsibilities.

The bill:

- eliminates the present \$100 limitation on the amount of disbursement vouchers subject to audit by statistical sampling, authorizes the Comptroller General to prescribe such limitations as he considers appropriate and to change them from time to time as conditions warrant. . . .
- transfers primary responsibility for the audit of transportation bills and recovery of overcharges from the General Accounting Office to the General Services Administration or other agency as the GSA Administrator may designate. . . .
- makes nonappropriated fund activities which sell merchandise or services to military or other Government personnel and their dependents, (such as the military exchanges) subject to audit by the Comptroller General. . . .
- grants the Comptroller General permanent authority to employ experts and consultants in accordance with rates not to exceed the maximum daily rate prescribed for GS-18. . . .
- provides the GAO first priority on space within the GAO headquarters building.

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January 3, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 3358 - Trust Land, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Oklahoma; S. 3359 - Trust Land, Pottawatomie Indians, Oklahoma; S. 521 - Trust Land, Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe, Oklahoma; S. 2888 - Trust Land, Inter-Tribal Council, Miami, Oklahoma.

Each of the four bills declares that certain lands are to be held in trust for the tribe(s) named therein.

S. 3358 and S. 3359 convey title to tracts of land already owned by the tribes named in each bill to the United States to be held in trust for the same tribes. S. 521 and S. 2888 each declare that a certain tract of Federally-owned land is to be held in trust for Indians named therein.

S. 3358 authorizes the Absentee Shawnee Tribe to convey title to 33 acres which it purchased from the U.S. in 1964 to the Secretary of the Interior. The land is valued at \$50,000.

S. 3359 authorizes the Citizen Band of Pottawatomie Indians to convey seven tracts of land amounting to about 280 acres to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust.

S. 521 declares that 5 acres of Government-owned land northwest of Canton, Oklahoma, is to be held in trust for the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe.

S. 2888 declares that a 114-acre tract of Federal land is to be held in trust for the Inter-Tribal Council of Miami, Oklahoma.

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January 3, 1975

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 8214, Tax relief for Prisoners of War and Those Missing in Action, which modifies the tax treatment of members of the U. S. Armed Forces and civilian employees who are prisoners of war or missing in action.

The bill originated as an Administration proposal which was submitted by the Treasury Department to the Congress on February 21, 1973. It will resolve several problems that have arisen for servicemen, their families, and the families of deceased servicemen by extending and liberalizing various benefits provided under the tax laws.

Provisions of H. R. 8214:

The bill will amend the provisions of existing law as follows:

- Military personnel who are hospitalized with combat wounds can exclude their military pay during the period of hospitalization up to two years after all combatant activities had ceased.
- Widows will be eligible for surviving spouse tax treatment (i. e., lower tax rates) for the two years following the year in which their husbands' missing status is changed, rather than the two years following the year of actual death.
- The current provision which forgives Federal income tax liability for individuals missing in action will be extended to cover the entire period of their missing status, even if it is subsequently determined that they actually died at an earlier time.
- Existing law will be clarified to ensure (a) that spouses are granted the same time-extension privileges as now provided to service members for filing returns and claims and paying taxes; and (b) that spouses of individuals in missing status may file joint returns during the full period of their missing status, even if it is subsequently determined that they had been killed in action in a prior year.

- The requirement that servicemen must be serving during an "induction period" in order to be eligible for certain tax benefits will be deleted. This change is necessitated by the fact that the Military Selective Service Act of 1967 has expired and there is no longer an induction period.
- Combat zone tax exclusion benefits will be extended to crew members of the U. S. S. Pueblo who were illegally detained as a result of the North Korean seizure in 1968.

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January 3, 1975

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 17450 - D. C. People's Counsel - which provides a People's Counsel for the Public Service Commission in the District of Columbia.

H. R. 17450 will re-establish the "Office of the People's Counsel" to represent such local consumer interests. The Counsel will be appointed for a three-year term by the Commissioner of the District of Columbia with consent of the D. C. Council. He will be authorized to employ necessary staff and prescribe their duties.

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The President has signed H.R. 12427 - Amend Merchant Marine Act which modernizes the National Defense Reserve Fleet and to resolve an FMC/ICC jurisdictional dispute.

The bill will authorize the Secretary of Commerce, within two years after enactment, to acquire as many as possible of the 24 eligible Mariner class vessels presently owned by United States flag operators and about to be scrapped in exchange for obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that are scheduled for scrapping.

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The President has signed S.J. Res. 133 - Indian Policy Review Commission - which establishes a commission to study Federal Indian policies.

The Commission's scope includes such matters as a management study of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, an examination of the procedures for granting Federal recognition, and a study of "alternative elective bodies which could fully represent Indians at the national level."

\$2.5 million is authorized for the lifetime of the Commission, which will cease to exist 6 months after it compiled the task force reports into one final report, but no later than June 30, 1977.

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The President has signed H.R. 12044, Hensley Lake, California, which changes the name of "Hidden Lake" in California to "Hensley Lake."

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The President has signed S. 3289 - Land exchange, Washington, which authorizes certain exchanges of land within the Kaniksu National Forest in the State of Washington.

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January 3, 1975

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 17010 - Department of Justice Working Capital Fund - which establishes a working capital fund for administrative expenses and equipment in the Department of Justice.

The bill will establish in the Department of Justice a working capital fund to be available without fiscal year limitation to finance certain administrative services on a reimbursable basis. The working capital fund will operate in a manner similar to such revolving funds in other Cabinet level departments and major agencies.

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The President has signed H.R. 16045 - Extension of Solid Waste Disposal Act - which extends through June 30, 1975, the current level of authorization for appropriations for the major provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

The Solid Waste Disposal Act is the Environmental Protection Agency's basic authority for programs dealing with the collection, disposal and recycling of trash, industrial and agricultural wastes and similar materials.

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The President has signed S. 2149 - Benefits to members of the Coast Guard Reserve - which ensures that members of the Coast Guard Reserve have the same retention and retirement obligations, rights, and benefits as have members of the reserve components of the other armed forces.

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The President has signed H.R. 8591 - Appointment of certain officers to the active lists of the Navy and the Marine Corps - which authorizes the President, for a period of two years, to appoint to the active lists of the Regular forces of the Navy and Marine Corps certain Reserve and temporary officers.

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The President has signed H. R. 13022 - Minimum grade standards for grapes and plums, which amends present law to provide for different levels of grade regulation for packages of grapes and plums being exported to different destinations.

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January 3, 1975

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 17628, which names the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee the "Holifield National Laboratory," in honor of Representative Chet Holifield, (D-Calif) who has served continuously in the House of Representatives since 1942.

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The President has signed S. 4073 - Extension of Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which extends until June 30, 1975, several authorizations under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, all but one at 1974 levels. The bill will extend through June 30, 1975, the fiscal 1974 authorization level for four provisions of the Act and slightly increase the authorization for a fifth provision. The total amount that will be authorized is \$337 million, although fiscal 1975 appropriations (already included in a separate bill) will total only \$239 million.

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The President has signed H. R. 14718, Modification of Reporting Requirements -- which eliminates certain reports required to be submitted to Congress by executive branch agencies and to modify others.

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The President has signed H. R. 1820, Land to Arkansas -- which permits Arkansas to exchange certain land for other land of comparable value that can be better used for the preservation of wildlife.

The President has signed H. R. 17558 - Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Administrator, which provides for a fixed seven year term for the Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and eliminates the position of Deputy Administrator. Currently, the Administrator serves at the President's pleasure. The bill will also eliminate the position of Deputy Administrator of the Corporation.

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JANUARY 3, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 2446 - For the Relief of Charles William Thomas, Deceased -- which authorizes payments to Mr. Thomas's estate and survivors based upon a reconstruction of his Foreign Service career and a presumed death-in-service.

The President has signed H. R. 1715, for the relief of Paul C. Amedeo - which relieves Paul C. Amedeo of his liability to the United States for \$606.92 as a result of certain overpayments of pay and allowances he received while on active duty in the Marine Corps.

The President has signed H. R. 7684 - Relief of Nicola Lomuscio, which authorizes the issuance of a visa and admission to the U.S. for permanent residence of Nicola Lomuscio, notwithstanding the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act which exclude from admission to the U. S. aliens who have been convicted by a crime involving moral turpitude and aliens who have obtained a visa by fraud.

The President has signed H.R. 2208 - For the relief of Raymond W. Suchy - which provides for payment of \$28,758.29 to Second Lieutenant Raymond W. Suchy, United States Army (retired) for retirement benefits which accrued prior to March 17, 1962, and which he did not receive due to administrative error.

The President has signed H.R. 9182 - Relief of Fernando Labrador del Rosario which grants permanent to adopted children of United States citizens.

The President has signed H. R. 14461 - Relief of Judith Sterling, which provides that the beneficiary be considered to be a returning resident alien.

The President has signed H.R. 10827 - For the relief of Kiyonao Okami - which authorizes a prospective recomputation of the retirement annuity for Mr. Kiyonao Okami, a retired Foreign Service officer, based upon the salary he will have received if he had been promoted in May 1968.

The President has signed H.R. 3203 - Relief of Nepty Masauo Jones which grants permanent residence to adopted children of United States citizens.

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January 3, 1975

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 544, State lotteries -- which permits the transportation, mailing and broadcasting of advertising, information and materials concerning lotteries authorized by State law and conducted by a State.

S. 544 will permit the expansion of a legal State-operated lottery to the fullest extent consistent with the lottery laws of bordering States. At the same time, it will not dilute the ability of the Federal Government to move strongly against illegal lotteries with interstate activities. It provides that Federal anti-lottery laws will not apply to an advertisement, list of prizes, or information concerning a legal State-operated lottery which is (1) contained in a newspaper of general circulation published in that State, or (2) broadcast by that State or an adjacent State which conducts lotteries. Tickets and other lottery material may be mailed within that State.

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The President has signed H. R. 9588 - for the relief of the city of Aransas Pass, Texas and its Urban Renewal Agency -- which releases the city of Aransas Pass, Texas and its Urban Renewal Agency from the obligation to repay a loan from HUD amounting to \$166,735. The bill will authorize and direct the Secretary of HUD to release Aransas Pass, Texas and its Urban Renewal Agency from the obligations of their agreement with HUD to pay for any deficit in local grants-in-aid in connection with the closeout of a project numbered Tex. R-92. The bill will not relieve the city from its contractual obligations with respect to unsold project land.

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The President has signed H. R. 15229 - Tort Claims Involving Canal Zone Government in Republic of Panama -- which expands the authority of the Canal Zone Government to settle and pay claims for personal injury or death resulting from the actions of an employee of the Panama Canal Zone Government.

The bill also authorize the Canal Zone Government to make an interim partial payment of up to \$1,000 for humanitarian purposes to an individual who is a claimant under this section of the Canal Zone Code.

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The President has signed H. R. 7767 - Relief of Samuel Cabildo Jose which grants permanent residence to adopted children of United States citizens.

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The President has signed H. R. 9654 - Relief of Mr. Aldo Massara - which enables the beneficiary to file a petition for naturalization.

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The President has signed H. R. 3339 - Relief of Delmira DeBow which grants permanent residence to adopted children of United States citizens.