

APRIL 5, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 6346 - Rural Development Act -- research and development activities. This bill extends through fiscal year 1979 the appropriation authorization for certain rural development research and development activities; exempts certain farm workers from the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act (FLCRA).

Under Title V of the Rural Development Act, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, in cooperation with colleges and universities, to develop and disseminate knowledge, scientific information, technical assistance, and feasibility studies in an effort to improve the rural development capability of local citizens, agencies, and State and local government. Funds are allocated to a State on a formula basis, upon approval by the Secretary of the State plan.

The bill will extend the appropriation authorization in amounts not to exceed \$5 million for the transition quarter and \$20 million annually for fiscal years 1977, 1978, and 1979.

In addition, H. R. 6346 will exempt custom combine operators, hay harvesters, and sheep shearers from the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act. Accordingly, farmers using these three classes of migrant farm workers would not be required to register documents with the Department of Labor which assure that minimal standards for these workers' housing, wages, food, medical services, and safety are being met.

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