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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: ED SCHMULTS 

SUBJECT: Suggested Statement for you
to use on the Hart-Scott-Rodino
Antitrust Improvement Act of
1976 (H.R. 8532)

Assuming you do not want to specifically defend against Carter's statement yesterday that Republicans "have stood in the way of [antitrust] enforcement", I suggest you use the following statement to comment on the Administration's position on the above bill:

The Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvement Act of 1976 which passed the Senate on September 8 has three major titles. The first title -- containing amendments to the Antitrust Civil Process Act -- is basically an Administration bill which we, of course, support.

The second title on pre-merger notifications has been amended to delete provisions that were objectionable to the Administration.

The President has expressed serious reservations concerning the concept embodied in the so-called *parens patriae* provisions of the third title. This title has been modified in response to a number of specific objections raised by the President.

The bill has not yet passed the House. Thus, the President will have to review the final bill if it passes the Congress before any decision can be reached whether in toto it represents a responsible way to enforce the federal antitrust laws.

