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February 4, 1976

SUBJECT: RICE BILL

Yesterday the Senate passed by a large margin a House bill that would permit open production by American rice growers. Part of the reason for the heavy vote in support of the legislation appeared to be the strong backing of Secretary Butz.

Will the President sign the rice bill?

We have not yet received the bill, and when we do, the President will take into consideration the views of the appropriate agencies, including the Department of Agriculture.

MKE