

Office of the White House Press Secretary
-----NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 11864 - Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Act of 1974, which provides for the early development and demonstration of both solar heating and combined solar heating and cooling systems.

H. R. 11864 will establish a demonstration program to test and demonstrate the feasibility of solar energy as a partial substitute for conventional heating and cooling systems. It will respond to the need for development of alternatives to increasingly limited fossil fuel supplies.

The bill will provide for an interagency program to demonstrate within a three year period the practical use of solar heating technology and to provide for the development and demonstration within a five year period of the practical use of combined solar heating and cooling technology.

H. R. 11864 provides in effect for a two-stage demonstration program. First, NASA will be responsible for research, development and procurement of solar heating and combined solar heating and cooling equipment meeting performance criteria prescribed by HUD, utilizing the services of the National Bureau of Standards. Second, HUD and Defense will be responsible for arranging for the installation of equipment in residential dwellings and NASA for installation in commercial buildings through arrangements with other Federal agencies.

The bill authorizes appropriations of \$5 million each to HUD and NASA for fiscal 1975 and \$50 million in the aggregate for fiscal years 1976 through 1979.

H. R. 11864 provides an interim basis for demonstrating the feasibility of solar energy and accelerating development of practical application of solar energy technology with whatever environmental, economic, and energy conserving implications that would have and provides for a prototype demonstration program as opposed to a large-scale, expensive operation.

#

#

#