OCTOBER 1, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 210--Boston National Historic Site, Massachusetts--which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Boston National Historical Park in Massachusetts, and will authorize appropriations of not to exceed $2,740,000 and $24,318,000 respectively, for land acquisition and development.

S. 210 will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation or purchase (condemnation generally not allowed) seven historic properties in Boston, Massachusetts--including Paul Revere House, the Old State House, Bunker Hill, the Charlestown Navy Yard, and the U. S. S. Constitution--for the purpose of establishing the Boston National Historical Park. In addition, the Secretary will be required to study five other historic properties in the Boston area to determine the feasibility and suitability of including them within the Park--addition of these properties will require an Act of Congress. The enrolled bill will enable the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements for preservation and interpretation purposes with State and local governments and private owners, who will retain their ownership interests in the property subject to such an agreement (apparently most owners will use this option). An Advisory Commission will be established for a ten year period to advise the Secretary on matters relating to the development of the Park.

The enrolled bill will also authorize the acquisition of property to serve as a visitor center and development funds can be used on the property even if the Secretary has acquired less than full title. Administration of the Park will generally be in accordance with the National Park Service's authority for the preservation of historic properties.

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