

OCTOBER 4, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 5507--William Jennings Bryan--statue donation which authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to donate a statue of William Jennings Bryan to the city of Salem, Illinois.

Under provisions of a 1930 Act, the William Jennings Bryan Memorial Association was given permission to erect a statue of William Jennings Bryan on public land in the District of Columbia--no Federal expense was involved. When subsequent road construction caused the statue to be displaced, it was placed in temporary storage until being loaned, in 1961, to the city of Salem, Illinois, which is the birthplace of William Jennings Bryan. The statue is technically considered property of the Department of the Interior, and would not be given to the city of Salem without appropriate legislative authority.

H. R. 5507 will authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to donate, by appropriate cooperative agreement, and without monetary consideration, to the city of Salem, Illinois, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the statue of William Jennings Bryan that was authorized by the 1930 Act. The donation will be conditioned on the city suitably displaying and maintaining the statue within the city.

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