

December 5, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 16757, Extension of Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act, which extends the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973 for six months, until August 31, 1975.

Enacted in November 1973 during a period of critical energy shortages, the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act is the basic authority for the Federal Energy Administration's program for allocating, and controlling the prices of, crude oil and petroleum products. The Act is due to expire on February 28, 1975, and this bill will simply extend the expiration date for six months, to August 31, 1975.

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The President has signed S. 1064, Judicial Disqualification, to codify grounds for judicial disqualification and to conform those grounds with the new canon of the Code of Judicial Conduct relating to bias, prejudice and conflict of interest.

The United States Code presently contains a provision requiring disqualification of Federal judges in cases where they have a bias or conflict of interest.

Recently, however, the Judicial Conference of the United States has made applicable to all Federal judges the new canon on disqualification. That canon is more restrictive than the present United States Code provision.

This bill will amend the United States Code by making it conform, with several exceptions, to the requirements of the new canon.

This bill also provides that a judge has a duty to inform himself about his own financial interests, however small, and that he make a reasonable inquiry about the financial interests of his spouse and minor children residing in his household.

The bill further differs from the Canon of Judicial Ethics in that it would not permit the parties to waive disqualification if it is required on the grounds of either financial interest or kinship within the third degree.