

MAY 19, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 172-Travel Expense Amendments Act of 1975--which raises the statutory per diem allowance and mileage rates for Federal civilian employees and others traveling on official Government business.

Under present law, last amended in 1969, civilian employees of the Federal Government--and experts and consultants employed intermittently--are eligible for a per diem allowance of up to \$25 per day while traveling on official business, in lieu of reimbursement for actual expenses. Current law also prescribes limits--established in 1961--on mileage rates paid for the use of privately-owned vehicles while on official Government business. The maximum rate system in current law allows agency heads to reimburse travelers for reasonable expenses up to the maximum established by statute.

Per diem allowances--The bill will

--increase the per diem allowance for travel in the continental United States from the present rate of not to exceed \$25 to a maximum of \$35.

--increase from \$40 to \$50 per day the maximum reimbursement to employees who are authorized to travel within the continental U. S. on an actual expense basis due to unusual circumstances, and would also authorize such reimbursement when the travel is to designated "high rate geographical areas."

--increase from \$18 to \$21 per day the maximum actual expense reimbursement authorized to be paid for foreign travel, in addition to the per diem established for the particular area.

--authorize comparable increases in per diem for Senate committee staff.

Mileage rates--Present law allows Federal employees to be reimbursed for the use of privately-owned vehicles on official Government travel when it is determined to be more advantageous to the Government than the use of commercial transportation or a Government vehicle.

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