

AUGUST 11, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary  
(Vail, Colorado)

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 7731--Temporary duty suspension on certain open-top hopper cars--which suspends the duty on open-top hopper cars exported for repairs or alterations which were re-entered after September 1, 1974, but on or before June 30, 1975. The duty suspension will apply only to imports from countries with most-favored-nation status.

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The President has signed H. R. 7728--Temporary duty suspension on certain catalysts of platinum and carbon--which temporarily suspends the duty on platinum--carbon catalysts used in the production of caprolactam until October 31, 1975. In addition, it will provide for the retroactive suspension of duty on such catalysts imported after October 1, 1973.

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The President has signed S. 2073--Indian Policy Commission amendments authorizing the American Indian Policy Review Commission to accept voluntary contributions of services and amends the Commission's enabling legislation in several other minor respects.

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The President has signed H. R. 1553--For the relief of Victor Henrique Carlos Gibson--which will grant the beneficiary permanent resident status.

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The President has signed H. R. 4241--John C. Kluczynski--which will designate the Federal office building at 230 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, as the "John C. Kluczynski Federal Building." H. R. 4241 will posthumously honor Rep. Kluczynski who died on January 27, 1975.

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(MORE)

The President has signed H. R. 3130--Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements--which clarifies the authority of Federal agencies to delegate the preparation of environmental impact statements. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all major Federal actions.

While it preserves Federal responsibility for the scope, objectivity, and content of EIS's, it provides that an EIS required after January 1, 1970, for any major Federal action funded under a program of grants to States, shall not be deemed legally insufficient solely by reason of having been prepared by a State agency or official, if four conditions are met:

- The State agency or official has statewide jurisdiction and responsibility for the action,
- The responsible Federal official furnishes guidance and participates in the preparation,
- The responsible Federal official independently evaluates the statement prior to its approval and adoption, and
- After January 1, 1976, the Federal official solicits the views of any other State or any Federal land management entity regarding any action that may significantly impact on them and, in the case of disagreement, incorporates in the EIS an assessment of the impact and views.

The bill will also provide that the foregoing procedure, which is limited to State agencies and officials with statewide jurisdiction, does not affect the legal sufficiency of statements prepared by State agencies with less than statewide jurisdiction (such as airport authorities, mass transit agencies, and sewer and water districts).

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The President has signed H. R. 5405--Emergency Carriage of Passengers on Cargo Vessels--which permits cargo vessels engaged in the domestic trade to carry more than 16 passengers in emergency situations. H. R. 5405 will amend Section 26 of the Merchant Marine Act to enable DOT to permit cargo vessels engaged in domestic trade to carry more than 16 passengers in an emergency situation. The current limit of 16 passengers was intended to ensure that vessels inspected under standards for cargo carriage will not be used as passenger vessels which are subject to more rigorous safety standards.

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(MORE)

The President has signed H. R. 8564--Extension of Aviation War Risk Insurance--which extends the aviation war risk insurance program for eight months until May 7, 1976; to allow the investment of the money in the revolving fund; and to require a 90-day Presidential study of an expansion of the program. H. R. 8564 will amend Title XIII of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 to extend for eight months, until May 7, 1976, the authority for the Department of Transportation to issue aviation war risk insurance. This authority will expire on September 7 of this year. (Executive Order released separately.)

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The President has signed H. R. 5884--Council on International Economic Policy (CIEP) appropriations authorization, fiscal years 1976 and 1977-- which will authorize appropriations of \$1,657,000 for the CIEP in fiscal 1976 and \$1,670,000 in fiscal 1977, extends the life of the Council from June 30, 1977, to September 30, 1977, and exempts the CIEP from the general laws regulating Federal employment.

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The President has signed S. 1531--Tom Steed Reservoir, Oklahoma-- which will redesignate the Mountain Park Reservoir, Oklahoma, as the Tom Steed Reservoir.

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The President has signed S. 1716--Nuclear Regulatory Commission appropriation authorization--which will authorize appropriations for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for fiscal year 1976 and for the transition quarter ending September 30, 1976. The bill will provide \$222,935,000 for 1976 and \$52,750,000 for the transition quarter.

S. 1716 will also:

- vest in the Chairman of the Commission most executive and administrative functions, subject to the general policies of the Commission and its regulatory decisions and findings;
- prohibit NRC from licensing any shipment of plutonium by air except for medical purposes until the Commission certifies to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy that a safe container has been developed to withstand a force equivalent to a crash and explosion of a high flying aircraft.

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(MORE)

The President has signed H. R. 83--Tax treatment of distributions to Klamath Indians and tax treatment of tax-exempt organizations--which will exclude from gross income gains from the condemnation of certain forest lands in trust for the Klamath Indians, and amend the tax code regarding application of depreciation recapture provisions to liquidation of a wholly owned subsidiary into a tax-exempt organization and regarding the definition of "private foundation."

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The President has signed H. R. 4723--National Science Foundation appropriation authorization--which authorizes the appropriation of \$791 million for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for fiscal year 1976.

The bill will authorize the appropriation of \$791 million for fiscal year 1976 (including \$4 million in excess foreign currencies) for the programs of NSF.

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The President has signed H. R. 8597--Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act for 1976 and the Transition Quarter ending September 30, 1976--which appropriates, for activities of the Treasury Department, the Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Civil Service Commission, the Executive Office of the President (except the Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations), and certain other agencies and activities, \$6,314,070,000 for fiscal year 1976 and \$1,275,352,000 for the transition quarter, July 1 through September 30, 1976.

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The President has signed H. R. 2559--Postal Service occupational safety and health; pay adjustments for Government officials--which requires the Postal Service to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act; provides for annual comparability adjustments in the pay of Congressmen and high level officials and employees of the executive and judicial branches. Section 19 of OSHA requires Federal agencies to maintain comprehensive occupational health and safety programs for their employees. Title II of the bill will provide for automatic annual pay adjustments for Supreme Court justices and Federal judges, Members of Congress, the Vice President, Cabinet members, and certain other top officials in the three branches of the Federal Government. It will tie the pay increases of these officials to the comparability adjustments applicable annually to Federal white collar employees.

(MORE)

H. R. 2559 (continued)

Title II will leave intact the regular mechanism for review of Executive Level salaries established under the Federal Salary Act of 1967, under which a Presidentially-appointed commission, established quadrennially, makes recommendations to the President for increases.

In addition, H. R. 2559 will make several other changes in pay law, as follows:

- include the Vice President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the majority and minority leaders of both Houses of Congress within the purview of the quadrennial salary review commission.
- raise the ceiling on pay for employees of the Senate from Level V of the Executive Schedule (currently \$36,000) to Level III (currently \$40,000);
- tie the salaries of certain legislative branch officials such as the Comptroller General, the Librarian of Congress, and the Public Printer, to the rates of pay for specific levels of the Executive Schedule, thus allowing them to rise automatically with any future increases in Executive Level salaries.

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The President has signed H. R. 7716--Temporary duty suspensions on certain forms of zinc, copper, and other metals--which will temporarily suspend the duty on certain forms of zinc until June 30, 1978, and extends, to the same date, the duty suspensions on certain forms of copper and other metals, which expired on June 30, 1975.

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The President has signed S. 409--Council on Wage and Price Stability Act Amendments of 1975--which extends the Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS) until September 30, 1977; authorize appropriations for the Council; provide for confirmation of the Council's Director by the Senate; authorize the Council to require certain periodic reports from businesses and to issue subpoenas; and provide for the Council to participate in rulemaking, ratemaking, licensing and other proceedings.

(MORE)

S. 409 (continued)

The bill will:

- extend the Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS) through September 30, 1977 (under current law it expires August 15, 1975);
- authorize appropriations for COWPS of \$1.7 million for each of fiscal years 1976 and 1977;
- require any Director of COWPS, after the individual holding office on the date of enactment of the bill, to be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate;
- authorize COWPS to require periodic reports for the submission of various categories of information maintained in the ordinary course of business;
- permit issuance of subpoenas, for attendance of witnesses or production of information or documents, to entities whose annual gross revenues exceed \$5 million;
- provide for the confidentiality under the Freedom of Information Act of information in the periodic reports required by COWPS, and make these reports and copies thereof immune from legal process; and
- add to the statement of the functions of COWPS intervention and participation in U. S. agency proceedings to present its views concerning the potential inflationary impact of the possible outcomes of such proceedings.

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The President has signed H. R. 7710--Tariff treatment of certain watches; child support amendments--which will increase from 50 percent to 70 percent the maximum value of foreign materials which may be contained in watches and watch movements manufactured in U. S. insular possessions entitled to duty-free entry into the U. S.; makes certain revisions in the recently-enacted child support program under Title IV of the Social Security Act.

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(MORE)

The President has signed H. R. 9091--Loans to the Virgin Islands for unemployment compensation; amendments to the Railroad Retirement Tax Act--which will make available appropriations in the Second Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1975, for repayable loans to the unemployment fund of the Virgin Islands; amends the Railroad Retirement Tax Act in certain technical respects which will have the effect of excluding certain railroad employee compensation from taxation for retirement purposes.

The bill will:

- make available up to \$5 million of appropriations in the Second Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1975, for repayable loans to the Virgin Islands as authorized by P. L. 94-45, the Emergency Compensation and Special Unemployment Assistance Act of 1975, which you approved on June 30, 1975; and
- revise the method for computing railroad retirement payroll taxes in the Railroad Retirement Tax Act.

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The President has signed H. R. 8714--increases in railroad unemployment and sickness benefits--which increases unemployment and sickness benefits paid under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act; raises the rate of contributions paid by covered employers; provides extended unemployment benefits for railroad employees with less than 10 years' service; and makes other changes in the Act as well as various technical changes in the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 and the Railroad Retirement Tax Act.

Title I of H. R. 8714 will raise benefits and tax rates under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, which was last updated in 1968. That Act, which was enacted in 1938, provides for unemployment and sickness benefits for railroad employees financed by their employers, totally separate from the regular unemployment insurance system.

Title II of the bill will make various technical amendments and corrections to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 and the Railroad Retirement Tax Act.

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