

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 1, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I return herewith, without my approval, of H. R. 9497, an Act "To amend the computation of the level of price support for tobacco."

Although I am concerned about the hardships that many United States tobacco growers have encountered this year due to adverse weather conditions and lower-than-expected export markets, the long-range interests of the grower will be best served by a vigorous domestic tobacco industry which can compete successfully in international markets. H. R. 9497 would be an obstacle in achieving this goal. In the face of slackening world demand for United States tobacco, higher prices would make our product less competitive, thus endangering the \$1 billion net trade surplus we now enjoy in this commodity.

At a time when we are attempting to reduce inflationary pressures in the economy by holding down the size of federal deficits, H. R. 9497 would increase budget outlays during this fiscal year and the transition period by an estimated \$157 million.

In summary, I believe this bill would adversely affect our tobacco exports, lower farm income in the long run and increase federal spending at a critical time in our economic recovery.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 30, 1975

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