

DECEMBER 12, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 6971 - Consumer Goods Pricing Act of 1975. This bill repeals Federal anti-trust exemptions which permit States to enact so-called "fair trade" laws.

H. R. 6971 repeals two anti-trust exemptions: the Miller-Tydings Act of 1937 and the McGuire Act of 1952. These statutes permit States to enact "fair trade" laws allowing manufacturers to dictate, through signed agreements with their retailers, the price at which merchandise can be sold and to enforce such agreements even against retailers who refuse to sign them. The effect of fair trade laws has been to eliminate price competition, legalize price fixing and raise the cost to the consumer of a number of commodities such as radio and television equipment, major house appliances, drugs, books, hardware, clothing and shoes.

H. R. 6971 will become effective 90 days after its enactment.

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