

DECEMBER 13, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 10027 -- Forest Service Cooperative Agreements -- will authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements between the Forest Service and public or private agencies, organizations, institutions, or persons for certain work or services. Such agreements can only be entered into where the public interest will be benefited and where a mutual interest other than monetary considerations exists. The Secretary will be authorized to advance or reimburse funds to cooperators from any Forest Service appropriation available for similar kinds of work or by furnishing or sharing materials, supplies, facilities, or equipment to the cooperators.

Under these agreements, Forest Service personnel could supervise the work performed by cooperators and their employees in cases of emergencies or as otherwise mutually agreed to. However, the cooperators and their employees would not be deemed Federal employees except for purposes of Federal tort liability and work-connected injuries.

The President has signed S. 1245 -- Alaska Highway Amendment. This bill removes a requirement that Canada provide a perpetual right-of-way for a portion of the Alaska Highway which cuts through Canada. S. 1245 removes a provision in the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973 which requires Canada to grant a perpetual right-of-way for part of the Alaska Highway.

The Highway Act authorized the reconstruction of a 322-mile segment of the Alaska Highway which extends through Canada. It also required Canada to grant a perpetual right-of-way for public use of the road.

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