

January 1, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 3474 -- Energy Research and Development Administration Authorization.

This bill authorizes appropriations for the Energy Research and Development Administration for fiscal year 1976 and the transition period from July 1, 1976 to September 30, 1976.

H. R. 3474 is the first annual authorization bill for the new Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). Title I and Title II authorizes a total of \$6,445 million for ERDA in fiscal year 1976 and the transition quarter.

Title III contains provisions:

- authorizing the Administrator to begin construction work without specific authorization from Congress on any project except fossil fuels.
- authorizing ERDA to transfer funds from its "operating expenses" account to other government agencies for the performance of work.

Title IV redesignates the Holifield National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee as the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. To honor former Representative Holifield, the bill will designate a facility under construction as the Holifield Heavy Ion Research Facility.

Title V will prohibit shipment of plutonium by air transport with certain exceptions such as medical application and national security.

Title VI authorizes assistance payments to Anderson and Roane Counties, Tennessee in addition to payments in lieu of taxes presently being made by ERDA.

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