

FEBRUARY 4, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 11510--Emergency starling and blackbird control in Kentucky and Tennessee.

This bill directs the Interior Department to apply bird control chemicals to blackbird roosts in excess of 500,000 birds in Kentucky and Tennessee until April 15, without complying with the National Environmental Policy Act or other laws, if the Governor of either State certifies that the birds pose significant hazards to health, safety, or property, and if the Secretary of the Interior finds that chemical use will not cause hazards to health, safety, or property.

The bill will direct the Secretary of the Interior to apply bird control chemicals to those blackbird roosts in the States of Kentucky and Tennessee which contain in excess of 500,000 birds. On or before April 15, 1976, such blackbird control measures would not have to comply with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA), or any other provision of law. However, before taking action, the Governors of Kentucky and/or Tennessee must certify to the Secretary that "blackbird roosts" are a significant hazard to human health, safety or property in their respective States, and in turn, the Secretary must determine that the treatment of a particular roost would not pose a hazard to human health, safety or property.

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