

March 16, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 7824 - Agricultural Census. This bill changes the date for compiling the censuses of agriculture and irrigation and drainage and to defer the date to adopt a "farm" for census purposes.

The census of agriculture, which is collected every five years, measures such things as the number of farms, farm acreage, value of farmland, and productivity of harvests and livestock. Section 1 of H.R. 7824, will (1) change the collection date from October of the year for which the data is collected to the beginning of the following year; and (2) align the collection of the censuses of agriculture and irrigation and drainage with the collection of the economic census.

H.R. 7824 will require the census every four years rather than every five -- for the years 1978 and 1982 -- until it coincides with the economic census in 1982.

H.R. 7824 will also change the date of the census of irrigation and drainage, which is compiled every ten years, to coincide with alternate economic censuses. Section 2 of the bill will defer until June 30, 1976, the final adoption of a new definition of a "farm" for census purposes.

The President has signed H.R. 11893 -- Temporary increase in public debt limit. This bill increases the temporary debt limit from \$595 billion to \$627 billion through June 30, 1976, and make other changes that will provide needed flexibility in Treasury's debt management operations. (No change is made in the permanent debt limit of \$400 billion.)

This bill provides:

- an increase in the temporary debt limitation to \$627 billion through June 30, 1976;
- an increase from \$10 billion to \$12 billion in the amount of Federal long-term debt that may be issued at an interest rate greater than 4-1/4 percent; and
- an increase from 7 years to 10 years in the authorized maximum maturity of Treasury notes.

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