

JUNE 1, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 2129 -- The Indian Crimes Act of 1976. This makes clarifying amendments to the Indian Major Crimes Act to insure equal treatment for Indian defendants accused of committing certain assaultive-type crimes upon other Indians within Indian country.

S. 2129 eliminates inequities in treatment as between Indians prosecuted under the Major Crimes Act and non-Indians prosecuted under a companion statute who commit offenses in Indian country. S. 2129 eliminates the requirement that State law be applied in certain enumerated felonies and instead subjects Indians to the same law and penalties as all other persons committing these offenses, within the jurisdiction of the United States.

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