

June 4, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 8719 - Establishment of a Washington (D. C.) Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Police Force. This bill provides for Congressional approval of the establishment of a Metropolitan Transit Police Force to protect the property, personnel, and patrons of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

This bill will also:

- authorize the Mayor to execute, on behalf of the District, the amendments to the Compact made by the legislation;
- provide that the D. C. Superior Court shall have jurisdiction of violations of WMATA rules committed in the District; and
- reserve the right of Congress to amend, alter, or repeal this Act.

The President has signed H.R. 12453 -- National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, 1977. This bill authorizes appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1977, to authorize an additional position of "Associate Administrator" in NASA, and to adjust per diem compensation rates for members of NASA's Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel.

H.R. 12453 will authorize 1977 appropriations for NASA of \$3,695,170,000.

The bill's appropriations authorizations are as follows:

Research and development	\$2,761,425,000
Construction of facilities	120,290,000
Research and program management	813,455,000

The President has signed S. 2498 - Amendments to Small Business and Small Business Investment Acts. This bill will:

- (a) authorize small business to obtain Federal guarantees of tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds to finance pollution control facilities;
- (b) states congressional policy that the Small Business Administration (SBA) should provide financial and management assistance to small agricultural enterprises;
- (c) increases the allowable share of Federal matching funds to Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs);
- (d) increases the maximum loan limit per borrower for certain SBA business loan programs;
- (e) standardizes interest rates for certain SBA disaster loan programs;
- (f) provides increased authorization for the SBA surety bond guarantee program; and
- (g) expands the duties of SBA's Office of Advocacy, authorizes a \$1 million appropriation for the Office, and requires that the Chief Counsel for Advocacy be appointed by the President with Senate confirmation.