

JUNE 15, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 1699 - Relief of Mrs. Hope Namgyal. This bill grants permanent resident status to the American-born wife of the deposed Crown Prince of Sikkim.

The President has signed H.R. 11438 - Court leave for Federal employees. This bill expands existing court leave law to cover witness service by Federal employees on behalf of private parties in court proceedings where one of the parties is the United States, the District of Columbia Government, or a State or local government; authorizes unobligated balances of appropriations for Government contributions to employee and retiree health insurance programs to remain available until expended.

Under existing law, a Federal, District of Columbia (D.C.) or congressional employee summoned in his personal capacity to appear in a judicial proceeding on behalf of a State or local government is entitled to "court leave," that is, to continued regular pay without charge to annual leave. In addition, such employee is deemed to be performing official duty if summoned to testify or produce official records on behalf of the Federal or D.C. Government, or if summoned to testify in his official capacity or to produce official records on behalf of any party in a court proceeding.

These provisions do not apply, however, when a Federal, D.C., or congressional employee is summoned to testify in a personal capacity on behalf of private parties. In such case the employee must take annual leave or leave without pay. H.R. 11438 will eliminate this by extending court leave to a Federal, D.C. or congressional employee summoned as a witness on behalf of either side in a court proceeding in which the United States, the D.C. Government, or a State or local government is a party.

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