

JULY 15, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 10930--Cotton research and promotion program. This bill amends existing law to (1) eliminate Federal funding support for the cotton research and promotion program, and (2) authorize an increase in the assessment paid by cotton producers for cotton research and promotion activities.

Under provisions of the Cotton Research and Promotion Act of 1966, the Cotton Board, composed of 20 non-government members, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, administers a research and promotion program for cotton.

H. R. 10930 will make the following changes in the present cotton research and promotion program:

- repeals the authorization to use public (CCC) funds in the program, effective October 1, 1977.
- authorizes, subject to approval in a referendum of producers, an increase in the per bale assessment paid by cotton producers in an amount not to exceed one percent of the value of the cotton.
- requires the Cotton Board to reimburse the Secretary (1) for expenses, not to exceed \$200,000, incurred in connection with any cotton referendum conducted by the Secretary, and (2) for administrative costs incurred by the Secretary of up to five employee years associated with supervising the administration of a cotton order.
- authorizes the Secretary to appoint up to three consumer advisors to the Cotton Board.

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