

August 2, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 14231 , Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1977.

This bill appropriates for fiscal year 1977 a total of \$5,814,102,000 in budget authority for activities of the Department of the Interior; the U.S. Forest Service (Agriculture); Indian health services (Health, Education, and Welfare); the Energy Research and Development Administration; and certain small agencies.

The bill also appropriates the \$20,000,000 in supplemental transition quarter for emergency assistance to the Government of Guam. These funds will be used to restore governmental services and provide emergency repairs to damaged public facilities in the wake of Typhoon Pamela.

The President has signed H.R. 13308 - Aviation War Risk Insurance Extension.

The bill extends for one year, until May 7, 1977, the authority of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue aviation war risk insurance.

The aviation war risk insurance program provides insurance against war risks for U.S. civilian aircraft in international operations. Such insurance is provided when adequate coverage cannot be obtained commercially on reasonable terms and conditions.

The President has signed H.R. 11504 - Negotiated Shipbuilding Contracting Act of 1976. The bill amends the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to extend from June 30, 1976, to June 30, 1979, the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to award subsidies for the construction of vessels on which the price has been established by negotiation between the prospective ship purchaser and the shipyard. It would also increase the maximum subsidy level from 35 percent to 50 percent.

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