

SEPTEMBER 11, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 15371 -- Protection of the spouses of major Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. This bill authorizes the Secret Service to protect the spouses of major Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees and the families of the President-and Vice President-elect, and makes it unlawful for anyone to interfere with any Federal law enforcement agent assisting the Secret Service in its protection duties.

H. R. 15371 will:

- Authorize the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the advisory committee composed of the Speaker and the minority leader of the House of Representatives and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, to furnish Secret Service protection for the spouses of the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees of a major political party if requested by the nominees. Such protection could begin not more than 60 days immediately preceding the general Presidential election.
- Authorize the Secret Service to protect the members of the immediate families of the President-elect, the Vice President-elect or other officer next in the order of succession to the Office of President.
- Make it unlawful to interfere with any Federal law enforcement agency assisting the Secret Service in protecting the President, Vice President, the President or Vice President-elect, their families, and others for whom Secret Service protection is authorized by law.

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