

SEPTEMBER 29, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 2286 -- Land conveyance, New Mexico. This bill authorizes relinquishment of the reversionary interest in approximately 3 acres of land to the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1966, the United States conveyed to the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, 640 acres of land with a reverter clause specifying that if any of the land was used for other than park purposes, title to it would revert to the United States. An Act was passed in 1974 that authorized relinquishment of the reversionary interest of the United States in these two tracts.

S. 2286 will enlarge one of the two tracts cited in the 1974 Act from 0.7 acre to approximately 3.7 acres. The conveyance conditions specified under the 1974 Act would apply to the enlarged tract.

The President has signed S. 2371 -- Regulation of mining within the National Park System. This bill closes six areas of the National Park System to further mineral claims under the Mining Law of 1872, and provides specific authority to the Secretary of the Interior to regulate the exercise of existing valid mineral claims in those areas.

These are: Glacier Bay National Monument, Alaska; Death Valley National Monument, California; Coronado National Memorial, Arizona; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona; Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska; and Crater Lake National Park, Oregon.

Under the Mining Law of 1872, mineral deposits in lands within the public domain were opened to exploration and purchase by citizens of the United States. Mineral rights on individual tracts of land could be patented by any eligible claimant.

S. 2371 will prohibit, subject to valid existing rights, further mineral development in these six acres.

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