

OCTOBER 9, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary  
(Dallas, Texas)

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H R. 10339 -- Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976. This bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate a program designed to facilitate direct marketing from farmers to consumers; supplements existing disaster relief authority to provide greater Federal assistance in transporting hay to drought stricken areas.

The bill will authorize two separate and totally unrelated programs: (1) farmer-to-consumer direct marketing; and, (2) emergency hay assistance.

Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing

H.R. 10339 will direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to facilitate direct marketing of agricultural commodities from farmers to consumers including:

- a continuing survey of existing methods of direct marketing from farmers to consumers in each State;
- the allocation of funds to State departments of agriculture and the USDA Extension Service for the purpose of conducting or facilitating activities which will initiate, encourage, develop, or coordinate methods of direct marketing from farmers to consumers within or among the States; and,
- annual reporting to the Congress concerning the effectiveness of the Act.

The bill will authorize appropriations of (1) such sums as are necessary for the survey and reporting provisions and (2) \$1,500,000 annually for direct marketing assistance for fiscal years 1977 and 1978.

Emergency Hay Assistance

The bill would require the President to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to pay 80 percent of the cost of transporting hay, not to exceed \$50 per ton, to farmers or ranchers located in designated disaster counties. Although the cost of this provision would change as counties are added or subtracted from the disaster roles.

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The President has signed S. 3485 -- Relief of Orlando Garzon; H.R. 12831 -- Relief of Mo Chong-Pu. These will authorize preferential treatment under the Immigration and Nationality Act for the admission of certain alien children into the United States for adoption purposes.

The bills will authorize the classification of each alien child as an immediate relative child and permit the approval of immigration visa petitions filed by the adoptive parents. Upon approval of such petitions, the children would be admitted to the United States for permanent residence. In addition, the natural parents and siblings of the beneficiaries are declared ineligible for similar preferential treatment for immigration to the United States.

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The President has signed S. 3146 -- Relief of Leo J. Conway, providing for the payment of \$5,000 to the beneficiary.