

OCTOBER 18, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 14451--Federal Property and Administrative Service Act Amendments. This bill establishes an orderly, efficient and equitable system for the allocation and management of Federal personal property. The bill amends the Federal Property Act to bring about significant changes in the utilization and disposition of Federal excess and surplus personal property. These changes include (1) a major expansion of the purposes for which surplus personal property may be donated, (2) a shift of the principal administrative responsibility for the donation program from Federal to State control, (3) restrictions on eligibility and use of excess property, and (4) the centralization of Federal responsibility in a single agency, the General Services Administration (GSA).

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The President has signed H. R. 15445--Whale Conservation and Protection Study Act. This bill authorizes and directs the Secretary of Commerce to conduct comprehensive studies of all whales found in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and to initiate negotiations for the purpose of developing bilateral agreements with Mexico and Canada for the protection and conservation of whales.

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The President has signed S. 400--National Park System study areas which directs (1) the Secretary of the Interior to study six areas for possible inclusion in the National Park System and (2) the Secretary of Agriculture to study one area for possible designation as a national recreation area.

The areas to be studied: The Frederick Law Olmsted Home and Office, Brookline, Massachusetts; St. Paul's Church, Eastchester, New York; The National Museum of Afro-American History and Culture, Wilberforce, Ohio; The Kalaupapa Settlement on the Island of Molokai, Hawaii; The George W. Norris Home, McCook, Nebraska; and, Mount Mitchell, North Carolina.

The bill also directs the Secretary of Agriculture to study the Shawnee Hills area in Illinois for the purpose of determining its suitability for designation as a national recreation area. No funds are authorized by the bill.

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**The President H. R. 14227--Land conveyance, Arizona which eliminates a restriction on the use of certain lands patented to the Regents of the Universities and State Colleges of Arizona.**

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The President has signed H. R. 15813--To amend the Act establishing the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. This bill enables the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to use government-owned, non-appropriated, foreign currencies by deeming the Commission a standing committee of the Congress.

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