

October 19, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 15531 - Unsworn declarations. This bill permits the use in Federal proceedings of unsworn declarations given under penalty of perjury in lieu of affidavits.

Under the current law, an affidavit or other written document requiring verification by the person signing it must be subscribed to under oath.

The bill will eliminate the necessity for an oath in documents routinely used in Federal proceedings, except in certain circumstances, by establishing alternative procedural safeguards against perjury.

H.R. 15531 will authorize the use of unsworn statements subscribed to under penalty of perjury, in lieu of affidavits or certain other documents, i. e., the signed document must include a specific statement that the document is being executed subject to the penalty for perjury. However, an unsworn declaration may not be used for (1) a deposition, (2) an oath of office, or (3) a document required to be signed before a specified official other than a notary.

The President has signed S. 1659 - Judgment funds for Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians. This bill provides for the deposition of funds appropriated to pay a judgment in favor of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians made by the Indian Claims Commission.

The President has signed H.R. 12961 - Repeal of State consent to certain Medicaid suits. This bill repeals P. L. 94-182 which (1) requires States in the Medicaid program to waive their constitutional immunity to suits brought against them by providers of hospital services and (2) reduces by 10% Medicaid payments to non-complying States.

The President has signed H.J. Res. 1107 - Precedents of the House of Representatives. The resolution will provide for the printing and distribution of 2,000 sets of the parliamentary Precedents of the House of Representatives, compiled and prepared by the late Lewis Deschler. The Joint Committee on Printing will also be authorized to direct that additional sets of the Precedents be printed.

Lewis Deschler was the Parliamentarian of the House from 1928 until his retirement in 1974.

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