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Oct. 21, 1976NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 10192 - Appointments to Coast Guard Academy and Vessel Documentation.

Section 1 of H. R. 10192 requires that all appointments of cadets to the U. S. Coast Guard Academy be made "without regard to the sex, race, color, or religious beliefs of an applicant." It would also require that steps be taken to insure the appointment and admission of eligible females to the Academy; standards of appointment, admission, training, graduation, and commissioning as officers would be required to be identical for males and females except for those minimal adjustments needed because of physiological differences between the sexes.

Section 2 of the bill permits two foreign built vessels, the Barbara Ann and the Bruja Mar, to be documented as vessels of the United States with the privilege of engaging in the coastwise trade. Section 2 also permits the foreign built vessel, Mary M, to be documented as a vessel of the United States with the privilege of engaging in the American fisheries trade.

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The President has signed S. 2548 - Emergency Medical Services Amendments of 1976, which modifies and extends the emergency medical services program through fiscal year 1979; authorizes a burn injury grant program; extends the life of two study commissions.

The EMS program, administered by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), provides Federal assistance through grants and contracts to public and nonprofit entities for the establishment of local and regional emergency medical service systems. Grantees may receive up to 5 years of Federal support for the planning, establishment and expansion phases of EMS projects. The program also includes authority for EMS research and training activities.

S. 2548 establishes another categorical grant program to be administered by HEW. The bill authorizes HEW to make grants to and enter into contracts with public and nonprofit entities for programs of research, demonstrations and training in the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with burn injuries.

S. 2548 extends the National Commission on Arthritis and Related Musculo-skeletal Diseases through December 31, 1976; the Commission's authority expired on June 7, 1976. It also extends the life of the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research for 1 year through the end of 1977.

**S. 2548 authorizes a total of \$238 million for fiscal years 1977 through 1979. The bill provides \$60 million for 1977, \$70 million for 1978 and \$85 million for 1979 for the EMS program, including training, and \$5 million in 1977, \$7.5 million in 1978 and \$10 million in 1979 for burn injury grants.**

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The President has signed S. 800 - Judicial Review of Administrative Actions, which abolishes the legal defense of sovereign immunity in certain suits against the United States; simplifies procedures for naming the U. S. as a party in a suit; eliminates the requirement that there be at least \$10,000 in controversy in Federal cases; and permits the joining of other defendants in suits against the United States.

The amendments made by the bill were originally proposed by the Administrative Conference of the United States and they have the endorsement of both the Conference and the American Bar Association. The amendments reflect the view that suits against the United States should not be barred for reasons that have no relationship to the real factors which should determine when the Government requires special protection from suit. Accordingly, S. 800 amends certain provisions in current law which acted to bar judicial review of Federal administrative actions.