

October 2, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 2150 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which provides authority to control hazardous waste disposal and for State planning for improved solid waste management.

The major provisions of the bill include:

- authorizing EPA to regulate the flow of hazardous wastes from the point of generation through their ultimate disposal in order to prevent the contamination of the Nation's groundwater.
- authorizing EPA to issue guidelines to States for developing comprehensive management plans for solving solid waste problems. These plans will include actions to close or upgrade existing open dumps and the plans will not be enforceable by EPA.
- authorizing EPA to provide grants to rural communities with inadequate waste disposal systems.
- authorizing EPA to conduct research and provide financial assistance for the demonstration of new or improved technologies for controlling hazardous wastes, traditional land disposal problems and resource recovery systems.
- minimizing the Federal regulatory authority.
- authorizing \$35 million for fiscal year 1977 and \$161 million for fiscal year 1978, however, the two major categorical grant programs terminate in fiscal year 1979.

The President has signed H. R. 11315 - Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976.

The legislation consists of three principal parts: (1) definition of the jurisdiction of the United States courts in actions against foreign states; (2) codification with judicial standards of the so-called "restrictive theory of sovereign immunity", i. e., the jurisdictional immunities of foreign states; and (3) removal of suits brought in State courts against foreign states to Federal courts.

The President has vetoed S. 3553 - Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976, which is identical to H. R. 11315.

In its haste to adjourn, the Congress passed identical Senate and House bills. At the time the Senate passed H. R. 11315, it attempted to vacate its earlier passage of S. 3553 but was unable to do so because it had left the Senate's jurisdiction. The House, unaware that the Senate had passed the House bill, also passed the Senate bill.

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