

May 2, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 8957 - Civil Rights Commission Authorization Act of 1976. The bill will authorize appropriations for the Commission on Civil Rights of \$7,893,000 for 1976, \$1,993,000 for the transition quarter, and \$9,540,000 for 1977. In addition "such sums as may be necessary" would be authorized for increases in salary, pay, retirement and other employee benefits during the same period.

The President has signed H. R. 12216 - Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1976. This bill extends through fiscal year 1978 the appropriation authorizations for most of ACTION's activities under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 and amends certain provisions of the Act.

H. R. 12216 will authorize appropriation of "such sums as may be necessary" for fiscal years 1977 and 1978 for ACTION's Title I National Volunteer Anti-poverty Programs (VISTA, UYA and other Service Learning, and Special Volunteer programs); Title III programs (Business Volunteer Programs); and Title IV (administration and coordination).

The bill will replace the prohibition in present law on the use of grants or contracts, including cost-sharing, for VISTA projects with an authorization for the expenditure of 20% of VISTA funds for programs carried out through grants or contracts including cost-sharing.

Other provisions of H. R. 12216 will:

- authorize ACTION to provide technical and financial assistance to governmental agencies and private nonprofit organizations to carry out volunteer programs.
- authorize ACTION to undertake and support volunteer service programs and to recruit, select and train volunteers to carry out special emphasis and demonstration volunteer programs.
- provide that the sponsoring organization of a Foster Grandparent project will have exclusive authority to determine which children may receive program services and the period of time the services will be provided, and authorize the continuation of Foster Grandparent services for a retarded child beyond the child's twenty-first birthday under certain specific circumstances.

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