

READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE TYPING -1 -2 -3 -4 2. 3. 4. -5 -6 -7 5. developing and maintaining these areas to the highest standards, standards befitting the nationally significant resources, to be found in these areas. The program will assure sufficient management and protection of the .8 8. resources in our park areas, and will also finance the -9 9. facilities and personnel needed to make these resources .10 10. 1 .11 available to the visiting public. The addition of lands 11. 1 to the System, coupled with effective resource manage-1\_12 12\_1 .13 13. 1 ment, will increase opportunities for outdoor recreation, as well as insure the protection and perpetuation of 14. 15. | park resources for future generations. Their inclusion \_15 would also help to alleviate overcrowding problems at \_16 some areas currently in the System which have experienced -17 17. 18\_ 1 sharply accelerated visitation during recent years. 1\_18 .19 19. \_20 20. The Bicentennial Land Heritage Program will also be .21 21. important to the National Wildlife Refuge System. The .22 22. 385 National Wildlife Refuges which encompass 34 million 23. acres provide habitat for a wide variety of the Nation's 1 .23 1\_24 24\_1 fish and wildlife. Funds authorized by the Bicentennial \_25 25. 1 Land Heritage Act will be used to increase the size of \_26 the staff which manages refuges, and to repair, rehabilitate, construct, and maintain facilities. In addition, funds will be available for the acquisition .27 27. 1 -28 28. 1 29. of new refuges. \_30 30\_ \_31 31. 1 To assist in needed maintenance and improvement of urban parks and recreation facilities the Program would also authorize \$200 million of additional funds for the 32. .32 1 -33 33. 1 34. -34 Community Development Block Grant Program, pursuant to .35 35. the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. It will be strongly urged that these additional funds be 1\_36 36\_ 1 .37 used for recreation programs. \_38 38. 1 -39 39. 1 In my August 31 message originally transmitting this bill, \_40 40. I urged the Congress to join with me in reaffirming our -41 41. 1 Nation's commitment to preserve the best of our vast and beautiful country and the wildlife inhabitating it. I now repeat my request. This program represents a sound 1\_42 42\_1 1 \_43 43. 1 44. investment in America which will pay off handsomely by \_45 45\_ .1 permanently insuring and enriching the natural treasures -46 46. 1 to be inherited by future generations. All Americans \_47 must stand committed to conserve and cherish our incom-\_48 48\_1 parable natural heritage -- our wildlife, our air, our \_49 49. 1 water resources and our land itself. As our Nation .50 50. 1 begins its third century, we must renew our commitment .51 to save this great natural heritage for the enjoyment 52. -52 of future generations of Americans. 53. 1 -53 \_54 54\_1 Accordingly, I strongly urge the Congress to enact the 55. 1 -55 proposed "Bicentennial Land Heritage Act" which establishes a program designed to ensure the fulfillment of this 57. 1 .57 national commitment. \_58 59. 1 -59 Sincerely, 60\_1 \_60 .61 61. 62. 1 .62 63. .63 64. -64 -65 65. 66\_1 \_66 GERALD R. FORD -67 -68 68. 69. -69 -70 70. 71. -71 .72 73. .73 75. 1 \_75