

The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “12/22/74-1/2/75 - Vail, Colorado (2)” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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DECEMBER 26, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed 11 bills, details of which are posted separately:

S. J. Res 234
S. J. Res. 263
S. 2343
H. R. 1355
H. R. 5056
H. R. 8864
H. R. 10834
H. R. 11013
H. R. 14349
H. R. 15067
H. R. 16006

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December 30, 1974

POOL REPORT
ON PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM SKIING

The President returned from skiing at 1:40 p.m. He said, "We skied hard..took a couple of good spills, not very gracefully." He said it "wasn't too cold" on the slopes. Someone asked if he skied in the new snow and he said yes.

As the President walked away, a bystander (female) called out: "Mr. President, my father's name is Jerry Ford, and we've had a devil of a time out here." The President, who was already headed for his house, turned and said, "I'm sorry," and walked on to the house.

Carroll Kilpatrick, Wash. Post

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Debbie Frazier of UPI discovered girl's name is Jamie Craft, father runs Ford Modelling Agency of New York, Mother's name is Eileen (spelling). Jamie is married, unknown age or husband's name. Eileen Ford is apparently big name in modelling, but not sure if Jamie's mother is the famous one

Gale

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POOL REPORT

President Gets Awards December 29

President arrived at Ski Patrol Headquarters atop chair lift number 4. He was wearing his brown ski pants . . . coat etc. President accompanied by normal number of ski patrol . . . secret service men and ski instructors. Also with President was his buddies Jim Brown and Leon Parma. Congressman Robert McCrory also at President's side.

The ceremony took place outside the ski patrol headquarters building.

First award was presented by Robert Gagne, . . . Head of the ski school.

Was in recognition for parallel skiing. . . The award is called the Vail Parallel Pin. This means, according to Pam Conklin. . . "he's got them all together."

The Award Ceremony as follows:

Gagne: The ski school at Vail has initiated a program for parallel skiers. . . and from all the instructors I would like to present you with a Vail parallel pin. It was the first one cut for the program and we thought it was only right that the first man got it.

Ford: Well thank you very much. . . I never learned to ski parallel until I took instruction out here from the Vail ski school . . . if I can ski parallel.

Gagne: That has a magic . . . (inaudible)

Ford: Dennis and others have been trying to get me away from those 30 year aerobird techniques so he's made a little progress.

Next presentation was from Bob Dorff. . . President of Rocky Mountain Division of the Professional Ski Instructors Association and also Director of the Ski School.

Dorff: Mr. President on behalf of the over 9,000 professional ski teachers of the United States I take honor and pleasure to present to you this pin and plaque making you an honorary member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America. However, it is our fondest wish that you confine your honorary ski teaching to those members of the White House staff and Secret Service who so desperately need it. (Ford laughs.)

Ford: Well Bob. . . thank you very much. . . I will never parade under the colors of being an instructor. I'll just admit that I am the beneficiary. . . Thank you very much.

The President also talked about just meeting a 75 year old woman who told me "I have many more years to ski. She's quite a challenge." Her name is Gert Gould, aunt of Dennis Hoeger, and a very good skier.

Quotes from McCrory. . . "Can I offer congratulations. "

Ford: "Sure Robert. "

McCrory. . . Here I went skiing with you all the time and nobody took a picture of us.

Ford: Did Kennerly get one?

After all this, they went in for elk steak luncheon (inside ski patrol.)

Hoeger, the ski instructor told the pool "he's in excellent shape and started out as well his first time this year as his last time last year. He is a good recreational skier and he is steadily improving, and we have been going on steeper stuff with more moguls. "

We were told that for the President's parallel test he was taken down the Prima slope which is an expert slope.

Jones/ Andrews



Telegram

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.

PD. OR COLL.

CASH NO.

CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF

☐ OVER NIGHT TELEGRAMUNLESS BOX ABOVE IS CHECKED THIS
MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

2 pm pool report at foot of mountain

The president and his party came off the mountain about 2 pm in a fairly heavy snowstorm. He asked newsmen and women "How are you all?" Isn't it beautiful?" ~~xxxxxx~~ When he was asked how the run was, he replied "It couldn't have been better." Asked if there was much snow on top, the President replied "Well just double what you have down here... just perfect. If it goes all night (and here he slipped on a small snow ridge on which he had been standing) "...oops... we'll have it even better tomorrow."

Then he asked the press how are you ~~enjoying~~ enjoying it here? Pierpoint frowned and Andrews said "great" to which the President then commented "I get mixed reactions."

Asked if he was going back to work, Ford said "Yeah, I got a big pile of things Don Rumsfeld has for me to do and we'll get ~~ix~~ them all done."

Then he took off his skis and walked away. ~~xxxxxx~~

-30-

Pierpoint and Andrews



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 27, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF TELEGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT TO MRS. JACK BENNY

My family and I were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of your devoted husband. For the past half century, Jack Benny brought joy and laughter not only to us but to millions of other Americans.

Jack's service to his country, his charitable works, and his genuine enjoyment of the humor of others are accolades that he wore with modesty, grace and charm. If laughter is the music of the soul, Jack and his violin and his good humor have made life better for all men.

We will remember you in our family prayers.

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Jack Benny
10231 Charing Cross Road
Los Angeles, California 90024

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DECEMBER 29, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President worked on papers from Washington this morning before going up on the mountain to receive his honorary membership in the Ski Instructors' Association. (Covered by the press pool)

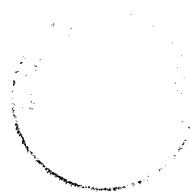
He will ski in the early afternoon, and then return to his house for several hours of work with Don Rumsfeld.

We have no bill signings or other Presidential actions to announce today.

The President and Mrs. Ford have been invited to a dinner tonight at the Gasthof Gramshammer. The reception beings at 7:30 p.m. and dinner at 9:00 p.m. The hosts are Mr. and Mrs. James Woolner. Mr. Woolner is a businessman from Scarsdale, New York, who met the President on previous trips to Vail. The guests include various Ford friends and Woolner friends from Vail. (A protective press pool will be escorted by Pappy as usual)

We will brief tomorrow between 11:30 p.m. and 12:00 noon. There will be no further announcements today.

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DECEMBER 29, 1934

White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

7:30 -

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President worked on papers from Washington this morning before going up on the mountain to receive his honorary membership in the Ski Instructors' Association. (Covered by the press pool)

He will ski in the early afternoon, and then return to his house for several hours of work with Don Hamelsfeld.

We have no bill signings or other Presidential actions to announce today.

The President and Mrs. Ford have been invited to a dinner tonight at the Gasthof Gramshammer. The reception begins at 7:30 p.m. and dinner at 9:00 p.m. The hosts are Mr. and Mrs. James Woolner. Mr. Woolner is a businessman from Scraperdale, New York, who met the President on previous trips to Vail. The guests include various Ford friends and Woolner friends from Vail. (A protective press pool will be escorted by Pappy as usual)

We will brief tomorrow between 11:30 p.m. and 12:00 noon. There will be no further announcements today.



POOL REPORT
ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE - WASHINGTON TO VAIL

This is the first part of what is expected to be a two-part pool report. We hope to have a manifest listing all travelers. With the President and Mrs. Ford are their son, Michael 24, and his wife, Gayle, who recently arrived in Washington from Essex, Mass., where he is a seminary student; Susan, 17, and her friend, Barbara Manfuso, who is 18 today. Barbara attends Holton Arms with Susan and has been her friend since the 9th grade. Jack, 22, and Steve, 18, will meet their family in Vail. Jack already is in Vail, according to Sheila Weidenfeld, and Steve will arrive shortly.

Also aboard were Liberty, a golden retriever; Donald Rumsfeld and family; Ron Nessen and family; Dr. William Lukash and family.

Weidenfeld said the family would exchange gifts early because they always give each other ski gear. "Special gifts" are opened Christmas eve and family members draw names and fill each other's stockings which are plundered on Christmas morning. "But the big gift for everybody is always the trip to Vail," she said.

She said Christmas dinner probably would be a private, family gathering and would probably be turkey, as will New Years Dinner. She will have additional information later on gifts, menus, parties, etc.

The poolers talked briefly with Rumsfeld shortly before departing Andrews. He said he hoped to ski some but "there are more than 150 peices of legislation to be addressed " so he didn't know how much time he would have. His wife, Joyce, went to the University of Colorado and is quite a good skier as are his children. Nicholas, 7, has been skiing since he was four.

Nessen said Ford spent a short time in his office this morning, gathering materials for the trip. When he emerged from his helicopter at Andrews he was dressed in a brown suit, without a top-coat and carried a sheaf of papers in his hand. Mrs. Ford wore a brown fur coat over a short red dress. Air Force One departed Andrews at 8:57 a.m.

At 10:05 a.m., Ford came back to the press compartment and spent about seven minutes with the pool. A transcript follows.

Following is a partial transcript of President Ford's chat with the pool aboard AF One.

Q. Are you all ready for skiing?

A. Well, I hope maybe we can get an hour or two in this afternoon. I understand that the weather may be such that the choppers won't be able to fly from Grand Junction to Vail. We may have to drive. If it's possible we look forward to it.

Q. Have you ever had to drive before -- you always had to drive before?

A. . . . we always drove up from Denver which is about 120 miles.

Q. Do you view this as a vacation?

(MCRE)

- A. No. I've got about 150 bills to sign and a few other matters to work on. So I think there'll be about two or three hours of work a day and probably three hours of skiing. Might even be more work than skiing. We're trying to organize it.
- Q. Are you going to give the people a tax cut?
- A. I'm getting a lot of good advice.
- Q. Do you plan to make a decision on that while out here?
- A. I would think sometime after we get back.
- Q. Will you be considering any staff changes or further cabinet changes while you're out here. . . you have, for instance, the transportation job to fill.
- A. I'm looking at some alternatives as far as transportation is concerned. I wouldn't want to comment on any other changes.
- Q. Mr. President, are you going to hold off on energy decisions 'til you get back, too?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Mr. President, did you see the story on the CIA in the --
- A. I read it very hurriedly. I got a call on the plane this morning from Bill Colby reassuring me that nothing comparable to what was stated in the article was going on over there and I told him that under no circumstances would I tolerate any such activities under this administration.
- Q. Are they allowed to have any internal intelligence activities?
- A. They have a very specific charter and they should live up to the charter.
- Q. He was asked whether he had learned of this activity before it appeared in the New York Times.
- A. I had some partial information.
- Q. Had he done anything about it?
- A. Well, at that time I indicated what I've said here, that this administration would not tolerate it and I was assured it did not exist.
- Q. Are you a good skier?
- A. Well, I'm an intermediate, but I enjoy it.
- Q. Have you bought any new ski clothes.
- A. I've worn the same ski pants for six years... there's a change of style and I thought I ought to have a little... well, wait and see.
- Q. Do you think the American people will get upset about your being on a holiday?
- A. I think the fact that I'm working about half the time, that I have worked I think seven days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day, I think they understand it, and I think you're the best witnesses, aren't you?

Nessen Briefing Dec. 6, 74

- 9 -

#90-12/6

MR. NESSEN: Sometime after Congress comes back, which I think -- that has been delayed until after the 14th, so, obviously, it will be sometime after the middle of January.

Q Are the oil figures the President is seeing going to in anyway discourage his travel plans in the next month or so in any way?

MR. NESSEN: He doesn't have all that many travel plans, Tom.

Q The Vail trip is still on?

MR. NESSEN: It hasn't been announced.

Q Mrs. Ford just announced it a few moments ago on the other side.

MR. NESSEN: What did she say?

Q When asked where they were going to spend Christmas, she said we hope to spend it in Vail skiing; we always do. She said, "It is our present plan."

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't contradict the First Lady.

Q Ron, is there any serious question about that?

MR. NESSEN: The President certainly wouldn't go to Vail until Congress adjourned this session.

Q Is it fair to conclude from the fact that this whole policy process is being regenerated in terms of energy, that the President doesn't feel there is a sufficient national energy policy?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't say the policy is being regenerated. As you know, this enormous amount of material that came out a couple of weeks ago, I guess, has taken considerable time to get together, and it didn't make much sense to make major decisions on a national energy policy before you had that enormous amount of background material. But, the President has said all along he was going to have a national energy policy, and this was the process of putting it together.

Q Are we committed, Ron, to the million barrels-a-day reduction, or is that something that might be revised in the options, considering the amount of storage that is now on hand?

MR. NESSEN: You mean about not reducing or reducing it more?

Q Is he firm on the million barrels-a-day figure, which he has set as a national goal for reduction of imports?

MORE

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DECEMBER 28, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

(Interim Report on the Economic Meeting)

The President's meeting with his economic advisers dealt, first, with the short-term problems of inflation, recession and weakened consumer confidence. It also dealt with the longer term directions of the economy.

The economic advisers were in basic agreement on the underlying and fundamental forces which are causing the serious problems of today.

After discussing the various elements with his advisers, the President indicated the basic directions he believes his economic program must take to restore the vitality of the American economy. Final decisions will be made after additional staff work is completed and following meetings scheduled to be held in Washington prior to the time Congress convenes.

Today's economic meeting is continuing. The Press Secretary will brief on the meeting and on other matters shortly after the conclusion of the meeting.

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DECEMBER 22, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

NOTICE FOR THE PRESS

President Ford telephoned Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson at the ranch in Johnson City, Texas this afternoon, to wish her a happy 62nd birthday.

The phone call, which lasted 8 minutes, was made from the Ford residence after the President returned from skiing. The President spoke to Mrs. Johnson first, and then turned the phone over to Mrs. Ford for a few moments of best wishes and conversation.

The President and his family had a quite steak dinner at their residence tonight.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed S. 3394, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974, with some reservations, but with appreciation for the spirit of constructive compromise which motivated the Congress.

I sought a bill which would serve the interests of the United States in an increasingly interdependent world in which the strength and vitality of our own policies and society require purposeful and responsible participation in the international community. Foreign assistance is indispensable in exercising the role of leadership in the cooperative and peaceful resolution of conflicts, in pursuing political stability and economic progress, and in expressing the American spirit of helping those less fortunate than we are.

In most respects, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974 will serve those ends. It includes, however, several restrictions that may pose severe problems to our interests. I must bring them to the attention of the Congress as matters which will be of continuing concern and which may require our joint efforts to remedy if circumstances require.

First are the numerous and detailed limitations on assistance to Indochina. The economic and military assistance levels for Cambodia, particularly, are clearly inadequate to meet minimum basic needs. Our support is vital to help effect an early end to the fighting and a negotiated settlement. This is also the objective of the United Nations General Assembly which approved a Resolution calling for a negotiated settlement. I intend to discuss this critical issue with the Congressional leadership at the earliest possible time.

In South Vietnam, we have consistently sought to assure the right of the Vietnamese people to determine their own futures free from enemy interference. It would be tragic indeed if we endangered, or even lost, the progress we have achieved by failing to provide the relatively modest but crucial aid which is so badly needed there. Our objective is to help South Vietnam to develop a viable, self-sufficient economy and the climate of security which will make that development possible. To this end, the economic aid requested represented the amount needed to support crucial capital development and agricultural productivity efforts. The lower amount finally approved makes less likely the achievement of our objectives and will significantly prolong the period needed for essential development.

I appreciate the spirit of compromise which motivated the Congress to extend to February 5, 1975, the period during which military assistance to Turkey may continue under specified circumstances. I regret, however, that the restriction was imposed at all. Turkey remains a key element of U. S. security and political interests in the eastern Mediterranean. The threat of cut-off of aid, even if unfulfilled, cannot fail to have a damaging effect on our relations with one of our staunch NATO allies whose geographic position is of great strategic importance. This, in turn, could have a detrimental effect on our efforts to help achieve a negotiated solution of the Cyprus problem.

(MORE)

I regret the action of the Congress in cutting off the modest program of military assistance to Chile. Although I share the concern of the Congress for the protection of human rights and look forward to continuing consultations with the Chilean Government on this matter, I do not regard this measure as an effective means for promoting that interest.

Finally, the Congress has directed that during the current fiscal year no more than 30 percent of concessional food aid should be allocated to countries which are not among those most seriously affected by food shortages--unless the President demonstrates that such food is required solely for humanitarian purposes. I understand and share the spirit of humanitarianism that prompted a statement of congressional policy on this subject. But that policy could unduly bind the flexibility of the United States in an arbitrary way in meeting the needs of friendly countries and in pursuing our various interests abroad.

As with other differences which the Congress and the Executive Branch worked out in consideration of this bill, I look forward to working with the 94th Congress in meeting and solving the problems that are still before us. We share the common goal of best serving the interests of the people of the United States. Working together, we shall continue to serve them responsibly.

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today announced his intention to nominate Lutrelle F. Parker, of Arlington, Virginia to be First Assistant Commissioner of Patents, and Bernard A. Meany, of Stamford, Connecticut, to be Assistant Commissioner of Patents.

Mr. Parker, 50, is an Examiner-in-Chief with the Patent Office's Board of Patent Appeals. Mr. Meany, 39, is currently Program Director, Contracts and Licensing, with International Business Machines Corp, Armonk, New York.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

MARCH OF DIMES BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH, 1975

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

The nation's most precious resource is our children. Each year, however, about 150,000 babies born alive in this country have some kind of birth defect. In the first year of life, birth defects are a leading cause of death.

Today, more than 1,500 genetic defects have been cataloged, and new defects are being described in increasing numbers. Some of these are pre-existing defects from parent to child, some are caused by factors in the environment such as radiation exposure, drugs, chemicals and infections, while the cause of others is still unknown.

Discovery that a baby has a birth defect is devastating to parents. In some families, however, the probability that a specific birth defect will occur can be predicted with some accuracy.

Some defects can be diagnosed before, at, or shortly after birth. Almost as many are discovered during the first year of life. A few do not become evident until years later. Some defects can be corrected during the earliest months of life, but others unfortunately result in life-long handicaps and are irreversible. Some defects are severe and some are so mild that they can be overcome with specialized medical management.

Birth defects occur in families in every social, economic, racial, and educational level. The problems presented by these defects today are different than they were 10 years ago. Damage caused to an unborn infant by the German measles virus can virtually be eliminated with the use of the German measles vaccine. Further reductions in other birth defects can be made using knowledge already available. Good prenatal care from the earliest weeks of pregnancy, or, better yet, even before pregnancy, can help protect the pregnant woman and her unborn child from potential factors known to cause these tragic defects. In addition, new information about genetics and the effects of drugs taken by a pregnant woman upon the developing child is being used to prevent these disorders.

Prevention is far better than a cure. It is very fitting, therefore, that the efforts be recognized of medical researchers and practitioners throughout the country, other health professionals, and voluntary organizations working so hard toward achieving this goal of prevention.

By joint resolution, the Congress authorized and requested that the President annually designate the month of January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. Only through a joint effort by government and the public it serves can we continue to improve the health of our most precious resource.

(MORE)

NOW, THEREFORE, I GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

I invite the Governors of the States and appropriate local government officials to support March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month activities and I call upon the nation's mass communications media to join in encouraging all Americans to heed the message of March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month -- prevention of birth defects before they occur.

I urge everyone: government officials at all levels -- national, state, and local -- voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge that citizens of this country fight against birth defects and particularly emphasize to all mothers the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The following announcements are being made available today:

Signing of S. 3394 (Notice to the Press and Statement by the President)
Signing of S. J. Res. 224 (Notice to the Press and Proclamation)
Signing of H. R. 7978
Signing of S. 3191
Signing of S. 939
Disapproval of S. 425 (Notice to the Press and Memorandum of Disapproval)
Disapproval of H. R. 8193 (Notice to the Press and Memorandum of Disapproval)
Intention to nominate two Patent Office officials (Notice to the Press)
Appointment of 24 members of the National Commission on Productivity
and Work Quality (Release)

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December 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 3394 -- The Foreign Assistance Act of 1974, which (a) authorizes foreign assistance appropriations for fiscal year 1975 of \$2,697 million, of which \$288 million is for development assistance, \$1,277 million for security-related economic assistance, and \$1,005 million for military assistance; (b) authorizes a \$100 million Special Requirements Fund for the Middle East; (c) provides authority to drawdown \$150 million in Defense Department stocks in 1975 to meet emergency military assistance requirements; and (d) contains policy provisions and regional and country limitations that are noted below.

The total authorization provided in S. 3394 is \$555 million less than requested.

The major reductions in the request are:

- \$46 million in food and nutrition assistance from the \$546 million requested;
- \$323 million in Indochina postwar reconstruction from the \$940 million requested;
- \$25 million in the President's contingency fund from the \$30 million previously authorized for 1975 (the bill, however, provides an unrequested \$40 million authorization for famine and disaster relief, \$25 million of which is earmarked for Cyprus refugees);
- \$385 million in grant military assistance from the \$985 million requested;
- \$150 million in foreign military sales credits from the \$555 million requested.

The bill increases the amounts requested for:

(MORE)

- supporting assistance from \$385 million to \$660 million with the additional \$275 million earmarked for Israel in addition to the \$50 million requested for that country;
- population and health by \$20 million to \$165 million, earmarking \$150 million for population activities;
- international organizations by \$11 million to \$165 million earmarking the increase for the International Atomic Energy Agency (\$0.5 million), UNICEF (\$3 million) and the United Nations Development Program (\$7.6 million).

As requested, the bill authorizes \$100 million for a Middle East Special Requirements Fund but with a concurrent resolution override provision discussed below.

The bill also provides an unrequested authorization of \$25 million for economic assistance to Portugal and its former African colonies.

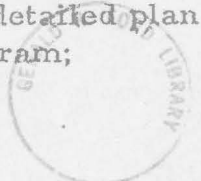
The bill reduces from \$250 million to \$150 million the ceiling on the President's authority to draw down defense articles from Defense stocks for use in the military assistance program, and limits use of this authority for Cambodia to \$75 million.

Military Assistance

Significant provisions in the bill pertaining to military assistance are the following:

- prohibits military assistance and sales to Turkey until and unless the President certifies to the Congress that Turkey is in compliance with applicable laws and agreements on the use of U. S. -furnished assistance and is making substantial progress regarding military forces on Cyprus -- the President can suspend this prohibition until February 5, 1975, if he determines that the suspension would further negotiations on a Cyprus settlement and if Turkey observes the ceasefire and refrains from increasing its forces on Cyprus and from transferring U. S. supplied implements of war to Cyprus;
- expresses a sense of Congress that the grant military assistance program, except for training, should be reduced and terminated as rapidly as feasible and, accordingly, directs the President to submit to the first session of the 94th Congress a detailed plan for the reduction and eventual elimination of the program;

(MORE)



- authorizes a total credit sales program (includes the reduced \$555 million appropriation authorization request discussed above) of \$872.5 million, as requested, earmarking \$300 million for Israel with repayment on \$100 million to be forgiven -- the forgiveness feature was not requested;
- reduces the reserve requirement on U. S. government guaranteed loans from 25 percent to 10 percent, as requested;
- requires the transfer of the authorization for military assistance to South Vietnam from the Defense Procurement Act to the Foreign Assistance and Foreign Military Sales Acts effective July 1, 1976;
- requires that all costs of military advisory missions, including pay and allowances now included in the Defense Department budget, be chargeable to the military assistance appropriation effective July 1, 1976;
- establishes a statutory minimum interest rate linked to that on U. S. obligations of comparable maturity for military sales credits unless the President certifies to the Congress that the national interest requires a lesser rate;
- eliminates the ceiling on the amount of military assistance and sales to Latin American countries and restores the President's authority to waive the \$40 million ceiling for African countries, as requested;
- limits the aggregate amount of military assistance, excess defense articles, and military sales credits and guarantees to Korea in 1975 to \$145 million -- the ceiling may be increased to \$165 million if the President reports to the Congress that Korea has made substantial progress in the observance of international standards of human rights.

Regional and Country Ceilings and Limitations

The bill establishes numerous regional and country ceilings, with individual program earmarking within those ceilings as follows:

(MORE)

Indochina

- authorizes \$617 million for Indochina Postwar Reconstruction with specific earmarking of that amount by country and programs;
- prohibits the use of development assistance funds in Indochina;
- prohibits the use of transfer or waiver authority to allocate non-Indochina funds to Indochina countries.

Vietnam

- establishes a \$449.9 million ceiling on economic aid, with specific earmarking thereof by program and project category;
- establishes a personnel ceiling of 4,000 U.S. and 800 third country nationals in Vietnam six months after enactment of the bill and a ceiling of 3,000 U.S. and 500 third country nationals within one year of enactment;
- prohibits the use of funds in 1975 for fertilizer procurement for Vietnam and in fiscal years thereafter a ceiling for Vietnam of 1/3 of total worldwide fertilizer funds.

The Executive Branch requested \$750 million for South Vietnam with no ceiling or limitations.

Cambodia

- establishes a non-waivable ceiling of \$377 million on the total amount of 1975 aid to Cambodia with an exception to allow the drawdown of \$75 million in Defense Department stocks; limits military assistance to \$200 million (excluding the drawdown), economic assistance to \$100 million, P.L. 480 to \$77 million and further earmarks the economic assistance by major program category.

The Executive Branch requested \$500 million for Cambodia with no ceiling or limitations, of which \$390 million was for military assistance.

(MORE)

Laos

- establishes a non-waivable ceiling of \$70 million on the total amount of 1975 aid to Laos; limits military assistance to \$30 million, economic assistance to \$40 million, and further earmarks the economic assistance by major program category.

The Executive Branch requested \$145.2 million for Laos with no ceiling or limitation.

Chile and India

The bill also limits assistance to Chile in 1975 to \$25 million, none of which can be military or supporting assistance, and limits aid to India to \$50 million.

Legislative Veto Provisions

Two sections of the bill provide for legislative override of Executive Branch actions by concurrent resolution. One prohibits any proposed sales of defense articles and services in excess of \$25 million if the Congress adopts a concurrent resolution of disapproval within 20 days. This provision does not apply if the President certifies that an emergency exists which requires such sale in the national security interest. The other prohibits the President from using the Middle East Special Requirements Fund if Congress disapproves the President's proposed use of the funds by concurrent resolution within thirty days.

Other Program Restrictions

In addition to the above limitations, the authorization contains other significant non-country-specific restrictions which:

- prohibit the expenditure of any appropriated funds by or on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency for the conduct of so-called covert actions in foreign countries unless the President reports to the appropriate committees of the Congress, including the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees that each such operation is important to the national security (this provision shall not apply during a declared war or an exercise of powers by the President under the War Powers Resolution);

(MORE)

- express the sense of Congress that the President, except in extraordinary circumstances, substantially reduce or terminate security assistance to any government which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights;
- prohibit funding for UNESCO until it takes concrete steps to correct recent action of a political nature involving Israel;
- limit to 30 percent of the amount of concessional food aid that can be provided to countries other than those most seriously affected by world food and fuel shortages, unless the President demonstrates to the appropriate committees that the use of such food is solely for humanitarian purposes.

(MORE)

Foreign Assistance Act of 1974
Analysis of Congressional Changes

(dollars in millions)

	Previously Authorized for 1975	1975 Authorization Request	1975 Enrolled Bill	Diff
<u>Economic Assistance</u>				
<u>Functional Accounts:</u>				
Food and nutrition	291.0	255.3	209.0	-46.
Population and health	145.0	--	20.0	+20.
(Population Activities)	(130.0)	--	(150.0)	
Education and human resources	90.0	--	2.0	+2.
International organizations	150.0	3.9	15.0	+11.
(Atomic Energy Agency)	--	--	(.5)	
(UNICEF)	--	--	(3.0)	
(UNDP)	--	--	(7.6)	
Contingency fund	30.0	--	-25.0	-25.
Famine and disaster relief	--	--	40.0	+40.
Cyprus	--	--	(25.0)	
Portugal and Portuguese colonies	--	--	25.0	+25.
Loans	--	--	(20.0)	
Grants	--	--	(5.0)	
Gorgas Memorial Institute	.5	--	1.5	+1.
Subtotal, Development Assistance	706.5	259.2	287.5	+28.
Indochina reconstruction	--	939.8	617.0	-322.
Vietnamese Children	--	--	(10.0)	--
Supporting assistance	--	385.5	660.0	+274.
Middle East	--	(377.5)	(652.0)	
of which Israel	--	(50.0)	(325.0)	
Middle East special requirements fund	--	100.0	100.0	
Arab Refugees (UNWRA)	--	--	(6.0)	
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE	706.5	1,684.5	1,664.5	-20.
<u>International control commission</u>	--	27.7	27.726	+
<u>Military Assistance</u>				
Grants	--	985.0	600.0	-385.
Foreign military credit sales				
Program	--	(872.5)	(872.5)	
Funding	--	555.0	405.0	-150.
Israel	--	(300.0)	(300.0)	
Authority to Draw-down Defense Department Stocks	--	(250.0)	(150.0)	
MILITARY ASSISTANCE	--	1,540.0	1,005.0	-535.
TOTAL, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE	706.5	3,252.2	2,697.226	-554.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed S. 3394, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974, with some reservations, but with appreciation for the spirit of constructive compromise which motivated the Congress.

I sought a bill which would serve the interests of the United States in an increasingly interdependent world in which the strength and vitality of our own policies and society require purposeful and responsible participation in the international community. Foreign assistance is indispensable in exercising the role of leadership in the cooperative and peaceful resolution of conflicts, in pursuing political stability and economic progress, and in expressing the American spirit of helping those less fortunate than we are.

In most respects, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974 will serve those ends. It includes, however, several restrictions that may pose severe problems to our interests. I must bring them to the attention of the Congress as matters which will be of continuing concern and which may require our joint efforts to remedy if circumstances require.

First are the numerous and detailed limitations on assistance to Indochina. The economic and military assistance levels for Cambodia, particularly, are clearly inadequate to meet minimum basic needs. Our support is vital to help effect an early end to the fighting and a negotiated settlement. This is also the objective of the United Nations General Assembly which approved a Resolution calling for a negotiated settlement. I intend to discuss this critical issue with the Congressional leadership at the earliest possible time.

In South Vietnam, we have consistently sought to assure the right of the Vietnamese people to determine their own futures free from enemy interference. It would be tragic indeed if we endangered, or even lost, the progress we have achieved by failing to provide the relatively modest but crucial aid which is so badly needed there. Our objective is to help South Vietnam to develop a viable, self-sufficient economy and the climate of security which will make that development possible. To this end, the economic aid requested represented the amount needed to support crucial capital development and agricultural productivity efforts. The lower amount finally approved makes less likely the achievement of our objectives and will significantly prolong the period needed for essential development.

I appreciate the spirit of compromise which motivated the Congress to extend to February 5, 1975, the period during which military assistance to Turkey may continue under specified circumstances. I regret, however, that the restriction was imposed at all. Turkey remains a key element of U. S. security and political interests in the eastern Mediterranean. The threat of cut-off of aid, even if unfulfilled, cannot fail to have a damaging effect on our relations with one of our staunch NATO allies whose geographic position is of great strategic importance. This, in turn, could have a detrimental effect on our efforts to help achieve a negotiated solution of the Cyprus problem.

(MORE)

I regret the action of the Congress in cutting off the modest program of military assistance to Chile. Although I share the concern of the Congress for the protection of human rights and look forward to continuing consultations with the Chilean Government on this matter, I do not regard this measure as an effective means for promoting that interest.

Finally, the Congress has directed that during the current fiscal year no more than 30 percent of concessional food aid should be allocated to countries which are not among those most seriously affected by food shortages--unless the President demonstrates that such food is required solely for humanitarian purposes. I understand and share the spirit of humanitarianism that prompted a statement of congressional policy on this subject. But that policy could unduly bind the flexibility of the United States in an arbitrary way in meeting the needs of friendly countries and in pursuing our various interests abroad.

As with other differences which the Congress and the Executive Branch worked out in consideration of this bill, I look forward to working with the 94th Congress in meeting and solving the problems that are still before us. We share the common goal of best serving the interests of the people of the United States. Working together, we shall continue to serve them responsibly.

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. J. Res. 224--which authorizes and requests the President to proclaim the month of January, 1975, as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month." It would also invite the Governors to issue similar proclamations and would urge the people of the United States to consider the problem of birth defects and to support programs designed to prevent their occurrence. The President's proclamation is being made available separately.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

MARCH OF DIMES BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH, 1975

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

The nation's most precious resource is our children. Each year, however, about 150,000 babies born alive in this country have some kind of birth defect. In the first year of life, birth defects are a leading cause of death.

Today, more than 1,500 genetic defects have been cataloged, and new defects are being described in increasing numbers. Some of these are pre-existing defects from parent to child, some are caused by factors in the environment such as radiation exposure, drugs, chemicals and infections, while the cause of others is still unknown.

Discovery that a baby has a birth defect is devastating to parents. In some families, however, the probability that a specific birth defect will occur can be predicted with some accuracy.

Some defects can be diagnosed before, at, or shortly after birth. Almost as many are discovered during the first year of life. A few do not become evident until years later. Some defects can be corrected during the earliest months of life, but others unfortunately result in life-long handicaps and are irreversible. Some defects are severe and some are so mild that they can be overcome with specialized medical management.

Birth defects occur in families in every social, economic, racial, and educational level. The problems presented by these defects today are different than they were 10 years ago. Damage caused to an unborn infant by the German measles virus can virtually be eliminated with the use of the German measles vaccine. Further reductions in other birth defects can be made using knowledge already available. Good prenatal care from the earliest weeks of pregnancy, or, better yet, even before pregnancy, can help protect the pregnant woman and her unborn child from potential factors known to cause these tragic defects. In addition, new information about genetics and the effects of drugs taken by a pregnant woman upon the developing child is being used to prevent these disorders.

Prevention is far better than a cure. It is very fitting, therefore, that the efforts be recognized of medical researchers and practitioners throughout the country, other health professionals, and voluntary organizations working so hard toward achieving this goal of prevention.

By joint resolution, the Congress authorized and requested that the President annually designate the month of January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. Only through a joint effort by government and the public it serves can we continue to improve the health of our most precious resource.

(MORE)

NOW, THEREFORE, I GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

I invite the Governors of the States and appropriate local government officials to support March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month activities and I call upon the nation's mass communications media to join in encouraging all Americans to heed the message of March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month -- prevention of birth defects before they occur.

I urge everyone: government officials at all levels -- national, state, and local -- voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge that citizens of this country fight against birth defects and particularly emphasize to all mothers the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 7978 which transfers in trust to the Hualapai Tribe approximately 795 acres of Federal land in northwestern Arizona.

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 3191--which provides temporary authority for 3 years for the Secretary of the Army to involuntarily discharge commissioned, Regular Army officers below the rank of major when there is a reduction in force.

The bill embodies the major features of a Department of Defense legislative proposal. It permits the Secretary of the Army, whenever there is a reduction in force, to involuntarily discharge commissioned, Regular Army officers below the rank of major (i. e., second lieutenants, first lieutenants and captains) upon the recommendation of a board of officers which he would appoint for the purpose of recommending such discharges.

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 939 which amends the Admission Act for the State of Idaho to broaden the conditions under which certain public lands can be exchanged.

Under provisions of the Idaho Admission Act of 1890, the State received Federal land grants for educational purposes under the condition that such lands could be disposed of only by public sale with the proceeds dedicated to a permanent school fund. As amended, the 1890 Act further authorizes the lease of such lands for periods not to exceed 10 years, and in the case of an oil, gas, or other hydrocarbon lease, for as long thereafter as such product is produced.

S. 939 amends the Idaho Admission Act, as amended, to:

- a. allow the State to exchange such educational lands for lands of approximately equal value or, where the values are not approximately equal, for a payment of money as well;
- b. permit the completion of exchanges between the State and the Federal Government on which agreement has already been reached; and,
- c. stipulate that in the case of an oil, gas, other hydrocarbon, or geothermal resource and associated by-products lease, the period for the lease could be for as long as the product is produced in paying quantities or the lessee is, in good faith, conducting well drilling or construction operations.

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has withheld his signature from S. 425--The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1974--which would have provided for the cooperation between the Secretary of the Interior and the States with respect to the regulation of surface coal mining operations, and the acquisition and reclamation of abandoned mines. The President's Memorandum of Disapproval is available separately.

S. 425 would have established Federal standards for the environmental protection and reclamation of surface coal mining operations including the reclamation of orphaned lands. Under a complex procedural framework, the bill would have encouraged the States to implement and enforce a program for the regulation of surface coal mining with Federal administration of the program substituted if the States do not act.

Principal aspects of the bill considered objectionable by the Administration are:

- A 35¢/25¢ per ton excise tax on surface/underground coal with receipts going to a Federal fund for reclaiming orphaned strip mined land, public facilities, disaster relief, etc. (\$206 million would have been produced in 1975).
- \$95--110 million for grants, research, and Federal regulation.
- Excessive direct Federal involvement in reclamation and enforcement programs.
- Precedent setting unemployment assistance.
- Coal production losses in 1975 of 2 to 8 percent--FEA estimates that by 1977, the first year after the Act would have taken full effect, losses could have exceeded 18 percent or some 141 million tons.
- Surface owner protection provisions that would have limited access to Federal coal lands, produced windfall profits to surface owners and reduced Federal revenue from leases.

- Complex procedural requirements and standards in the lengthy bill which could have involved extensive litigation and potential production impact, particularly:
 - A very broad citizens suit provision.
 - Near prohibition on mining that disturbs alluvial valley floors or water supplies in the west.
 - Limited administrative discretion.
 - Procedural requirements that could have delayed permits for new operations and imposed a temporary moratorium on mining permits for Federal lands (including mineral rights).
 - Requirement to prevent any increase in siltation above premining conditions.
 - Designation of areas not suitable for surface mining.
 - Construction of certain impoundments prohibited.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval from S. 425, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1974.

S. 425 would establish Federal standards for the environmental protection and reclamation of surface coal mining operations, including the reclamation of orphaned lands. Under a complex procedural framework, the bill would encourage the States to implement and enforce a program for the regulation of surface coal mining with substitution of a federally administered program if the States do not act.

The Executive Branch submitted to both the 92nd and 93rd Congresses legislation that would have established reasonable and effective reclamation and environmental protection requirements for mining activities. Throughout this period, the Administration made every effort in working with the Congress to produce a bill that would strike the delicate balance between our desire for reclamation and environmental protection and our need to increase coal production in the United States.

Unfortunately, S. 425, as enrolled, would have an adverse impact on our domestic coal production which is unacceptable. By 1977, the first year after the Act would take full effect, the Federal Energy Administration has estimated that coal production losses would range from a minimum of 48 million tons to a maximum of 141 million tons. In addition, further losses which cannot be quantified could result from ambiguities in the bill, forcing protracted regulatory disputes and litigation. In my judgment, the most significant reasons why such coal losses cannot be accepted are as follows:

1. Coal is the one abundant energy source over which the United States has total control. We should not unduly impair our ability to use it properly.
2. We are engaged in a major review of national energy policies. Unnecessary restrictions on coal production would limit our Nation's freedom to adopt the best energy options.
3. The United States uses the equivalent of 4 barrels of expensive foreign oil for every ton of unproduced domestic coal -- a situation which cannot long be tolerated without continued, serious economic consequences. This bill would exacerbate this problem.
4. Unemployment would increase in both the coal fields and in those industries unable to obtain alternative fuel.

In addition, S. 425 provides for excessive Federal expenditures and would clearly have an inflationary impact on the economy. Moreover, it contains numerous other deficiencies which have recently been addressed in Executive Branch communications to the Congress concerning this legislation.

(MCRE)

In sum, I find that the adverse impact of this bill on our domestic coal production is unacceptable at a time when the Nation can ill afford significant losses from this critical energy resource. It would also further complicate our battle against inflation. Accordingly, I am withholding my approval from S. 425.

In doing so, I am truly disappointed and sympathetic with those in Congress who have labored so hard to come up with a good bill. We must continue to strive diligently to ensure that laws and regulations are in effect which establish environmental protection and reclamation requirements appropriately balanced against the Nation's need for increased coal production. This will continue to be my Administration's goal in the new year.

GERALD R FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
December 30, 1974

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has withheld his signature from H. R. 8193 - the Energy Transportation Security Act of 1974, which would have required that specified percentages of oil imported into the United States be carried on U.S. flag commercial vessels, provided that the Secretary of Commerce take steps to fulfill this requirement, authorized temporary Presidential waivers in emergencies, and established certain environmental standards respecting tanker construction.

The Merchant Marine Act was enacted in 1936 to foster development and maintenance of a merchant marine capable of carrying a substantial portion of our water borne commerce and serving as a naval auxiliary in time of war or national emergency and provides certain subsidies for that purpose. The Act was amended in 1970 to provide Federal subsidies for the construction of bulk carrier vessels, including oil tankers.

In 1972 the Senate rejected cargo preference legislation (similar to the enrolled bill), which had been opposed by the Administration.

The bill would have amended the Merchant Marine Act to require the Secretary of Commerce to assure that a quantity initially equal to 20 percent of the gross tonnage of all oil transported in bulk on tankers for import into the United States be carried on privately-owned U.S. flag tankers to the extent they are available at fair and reasonable rates. The requirement would have been raised after June 30, 1975 to 25 percent, and after June 30, 1977 to 30 percent, if adequate U.S. tonnage were determined to be available.

The bill would have further provided:

- that the cargo preference requirements "...may be temporarily waived by the President upon determination that an emergency exists justifying such a waiver in the national interest";
- that eligibility for participation in the trade be limited to tankers originally built in U.S. shipyards;

(MORE)

- that license fees payable on oil imports carried in U.S. flag tankers be reduced by specified amounts for a period of five years from the date of enactment, if the amounts saved from the non-payment of such license fees would be passed on to the consumers;
- that all U.S. flag tankers in excess of 70,000 deadweight tons must be constructed using the best available pollution prevention technology after 1975, and that all U.S. flag tankers in excess of 20,000 deadweight tons using west coast and Alaska ports after 1974 be equipped with a segregated ballast capacity achieved in part by fitting a double bottom.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval from H. R. 8193, the Energy Transportation Security Act of 1974.

The bill would initially require that 20 percent of the oil imported into the United States be carried on U. S. flag tankers. The percentage would increase to 30 percent after June 30, 1977.

This bill would have the most serious consequences. It would have an adverse impact on the United States economy and on our foreign relations. It would create serious inflationary pressures by increasing the cost of oil and raising the prices of all products and services which depend on oil. It would further stimulate inflation in the ship construction industry and cut into the industry's ability to meet ship construction for the U. S. Navy.

In addition, the bill would serve as a precedent for other countries to increase protection of their industries, resulting in a serious deterioration in beneficial international competition and trade. This is directly contrary to the objectives of the trade bill which the Congress has just passed. In addition, it would violate a large number of our treaties of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation.

Although this bill would undoubtedly benefit a limited group of our working population, such benefit would entail disproportionate costs and produce undesirable effects which could extend into other areas and industries. The waiver provisions which the Congress included in an effort to meet a few of my concerns fail to overcome the serious objections I have to the legislation.

Accordingly, I am not approving this bill because of the substantial adverse effect on the Nation's economy and international interest.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my commitment to maintaining a strong U. S. Merchant Marine. I believe we can and will do this under our existing statutes and programs such as those administered by the Maritime Administration in the Department of Commerce.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
December 30, 1974

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DECEMBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today announced his intention to nominate Lutrelle F. Parker, of Arlington, Virginia to be First Assistant Commissioner of Patents, and Bernard A. Meany, of Stamford, Connecticut, to be Assistant Commissioner of Patents.

Mr. Parker, 50, is an Examiner-in-Chief with the Patent Office's Board of Patent Appeals. Mr. Meany, 39, is currently Program Director, Contracts and Licensing, with International Business Machines Corp, Armonk, New York.

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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the appointment of 24 persons as members of the National Commission on Productivity and Work Quality. The President also announced the designation of Dr. John T. Dunlop as Chairman of the Commission, and I. W. Abel and Donald C. Burnham as Vice Chairmen.

The members are:

Dr. John T. Dunlop, of Belmont, Massachusetts; Professor at Harvard University and coordinator of the President's Labor-Management Advisory Committee.

I. W. Abel, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; President, United Steelworkers of America.

Donald C. Burnham, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Chairman, Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

Berkeley Graham Burrell, of Washington, D. C; President, National Business League.

Frank E. Fitzsimmons, of Chevy Chase, Maryland; President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Wayne L. Horovitz, of Washington, D. C; Chairman, Joint Labor-Management Committee of the Retail Food Industry.

R. Heath Larry, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Vice Chairman, United States Steel Corporation.

John H. Lyons, of Potomac, Maryland; President, International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers.

William H. McCiennan, of Arlington, Virginia; President, Public Employees Department, AFL-CIO.

Jerome M. Rosow, of Scarsdale, New York; Planning Manager, Public Affairs Department, Exxon Corporation.

John F. O'Connell, of Kantfield, California; President, Bechtel Corporation.

F. E. Barnett, of New York, New York; Chairman, Union Pacific Railroad.

C. L. Dennis, of Des Plaines, Illinois; President, Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees.

Catherine B. Cleary, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; President, First Wisconsin Trust Company.

(MORE)

L. William Seidman, Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs.

Thomas Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles, California.

Daniel J. Evans, Governor of the State of Washington.

Charles L. Schultze, of Washington, D. C; Senior Fellow,
the Brookings Institution.

William E. Simon, Secretary of the Treasury.

Frederick B. Dent, Secretary of Commerce.

Peter J. Brennan, Secretary of Labor.

Roy L. Ash, Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Albert Rees, Executive Director of the Council on Wage and
Price Stability.

The statute establishing the National Commission on Productivity and Work Quality provides that the Commission shall advise the Congress and the President with respect to Government policy affecting productivity and quality of work, and requires the Commission to report annually on its activities both to the Congress and the President. In view of these requirements and the interest of the General Accounting Office in measuring and enhancing public sector productivity, the Comptroller General of the United States, Elmer B. Staats, has been invited to work closely with the Commission.

The Commission was originally established in 1970 and acquired its present name and charter in Public Law 93-311 of June 8, 1974.

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Q Would it be fair to ask, Ron, why the press plane has to leave two hours ahead?

MR. NESSEN: I am going to get to that, John. There is also a reason for that, as you will plainly see.

The reason for the early press departure is so that you can be in Vail to cover his arrival there. The pool that will be on helicopters carrying the President and his staff will probably be only a two-man pool. We are trying to get that expanded, but if we do it won't be a big expansion.

Air Force One and the press plane -- and the press plane will be a Lockheed 1011 Air Bus -- the press plane and Air Force One will land at Grand Junction. The President then will go by helicopter to the town of Avon where he will get in a small motorcade and drive to Vail. The chopper and the motorcade together will take about an hour and a half, and that will get him to Vail at 11:30 Vail time.

Q At night, obviously.

MR. NESSEN: No, that is in the morning.

Q He wanted to get there before dark. That is why we are all leaving so early.

MR. NESSEN: Fran, the Air Force has done these times and it is to leave themselves spare time.

Q I am only commenting on what you said. It seems like the football schedule makes more sense.

MR. NESSEN: I am telling you the reason I was told.

Q How do we get from Grand Junction to Vail?

MR. NESSEN: That is the next paragraph.

The press will go in buses from Grand Junction to Vail, arriving in Vail at about 11:00 a.m. So that means you would be there about a half-hour before he is so you can see his arrival.

Q Where does he arrive?

MR. NESSEN: I guess he arrives at the house. He will drive up and get out at his house.

The Transportation Office says you should plan to dress casually for the plane trip and wear warm clothes because you may be in a blizzard when you arrive. You are advised to pack only one suit. I guess that means there won't be many formal occasions to dress up.

This morning we found the temperature there was 15 degrees. It goes down to near zero at night, and goes up to about 20 degrees by mid-afternoon, although it is colder up on the mountain.

Q Ron, this question will smack of something that was asked previously, but is the press plane prepared to handle skis?

MR. NESSEN: The answer is yes.

Q Answer to what?

MR. NESSEN: Is there enough room on the plane to carry skis aboard, and the answer is yes.

That ends the formal announcement of the Vail trip. Actually in the next couple of days obviously we will have a lot more details and timetables.

Q What access will we have in the region, in the area of the President, on a day-by-day basis when he is skiing?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think the President said to the pool the other day that it would be great if he had a day or so to get his ski legs. Our plan was to have some pictures Sunday afternoon, kind of maybe at the bottom of the slope, or getting on the lift, or something like that, and give him a day or so to get his ski legs, and then do the big coverage on the slopes on the 24th, which is Christmas Eve, Tuesday. So that is the basic plan that we had thought of doing.

Q Are these slopes going to be closed off when he is on them?

MR. NESSEN: No. Oh, no.

Q Can you give us the name of this gentleman's house the President is going to stay at instead of staying at his own apartment?

MR. NESSEN: The President is renting a house from a gentleman named Richard Bass. Mr. Bass is a skiing enthusiast and a geologist engaged in mineral exploration and production, a cattle rancher, and a ski area investor, developer and operator.

Q What was the last one?

MR. NESSEN: Ski area investor, developer, and operator. He was one of the original limited partners in Vail, and was formerly on the Board of Directors. He also has an interest in skiing operations at Aspen and Alta, Utah.

His main occupation now is a general partner of Snowbird Limited, a ski area in Utah which has just started its fourth season of operation. And he met the President -- I don't have how many years ago -- but he met the President while skiing at Aspen and Vail.

Q You say he is a general partner in that Snowbird?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, who will be staying in the President's condominium?

MR. NESSEN: The President and his family is what I am told.

Q No, in the one he owns.

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry. Dick Bass is going to use the President's condominium, and the President is going to pay Dick Bass \$100 a day rent to make up the difference because the President's condominium is a three bedroom, and Dick Bass's house is a seven bedroom, and so the President will pay \$100 a day difference to make up for the size of the houses.

Q Is his house sort of outside the main street where the President's condominium is? In other words, is it down the way a little bit?

MR. NESSEN: I saw a map here the other day.

It is the east end of Vail.

There is a ten-minute walk from the condominium the President owns to the Manor Vail Lodge, and the Dick Bass house is about five minutes, about halfway between, so it is closer.

Q Ron, did anything have to be done to Mr. Bass's house about security?

MR. NESSEN: I am told we don't have anything on that.

Q One million dollars?

MR. NESSEN: Well, if it is it did not cost the Government \$1 million.

Q It will before you are finished. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: You are all so cynical.

MORE

Q What about the houses on either side of the Bass house?

MR. NESSEN: What about them?

Q Will they be housing aides or Secret Service people?

MR. NESSEN: There are only two aides going with the President, Don Rumsfeld and myself.

Q Would you expect, inasmuch as he will be preparing energy messages and the State of the Union, that some White House people will be ferrying back and forth?

MR. NESSEN: If they are needed, or as they are needed, they could come out there.

Q Could we please be informed every time he leaves the house and where he goes and when he goes skiing and so forth and when he comes back?

MR. NESSEN: How about his movements within the house?

Q Ron, I have an interest in --

MR. NESSEN: Helen, I know that interest and that is why we are taking a few people from my office.

Q What I mean is, are we going to be informed whenever he goes skiing?

MR. NESSEN: I assume so. We have not worked out our exact plans for the week, but we are going to have briefing out there. It is not a ski vacation. It is a working holiday.

He expects to -- well, you know, you can disbelieve that or not -- the fact is, I have talked to him about it and Don has talked to him about it, and he plans to work three or four hours in the morning until about 11:30. And I will keep you informed on precisely what the work is for those few disbelievers in the crowd.

Then, he plans to ski for awhile from 11:30 or 11:00 to 2:30, and then he expects to do more work in the afternoon.

Q Has he set a firm date for his return to Washington?

MR. NESSEN: He has not, Ralph. FOR GUIDANCE, I would think somewhere around the second of January.

Let me answer this question here about the two houses on either side. I saw a story about that. The Secret Service has rented a house in the vicinity of the Bass house as a headquarters and for some of the agents to sleep in, and the Military Assistance Office has rented a house behind the Bass house.

The house on one side of the President's has been rented by NBC, which is unconnected in any way with the White House.

The house on the other side is occupied by the people who own it.

Q Who are?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q How much is it costing you to rent these two houses?

MR. NESSEN: The Scott family of Vail, Colorado do.

Q Do you have any first name?

MR. NESSEN: No. That is the first time I heard the last name.

Q Can we come down off the slopes for a minute?

MR. NESSEN: Do you want the name of the street he will be on?

Q How about my question on how much it will be costing to rent these two houses?

MR. NESSEN: Do we have anything on how much it is costing to rent the two houses?

We don't.

He is on Mill Creek Circle.

Q This is the Bass house?

MR. NESSEN: The Bass house is on Mill Creek Circle. The house he owns is on Gore Creek Drive at the corner of Willow Bridge Road.

Q Where is the CBS house?

MR. NESSEN: The CBS house is on Willow Circle, right alongside Gore Creek. UPI is on the other side of the bridge from CBS.

Q On Sunday does the President plan to watch the football game, Sunday afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: I did not ask him, Phil, but I will.

Q Do you plan regular briefings out there, and if so, what time and so on?

MR. NESSEN: We have not worked out the precise schedule, but I suspect the fact that he will be doing work everyday and the fact that there will be a lot of bills piled up from the last days of Congress and preparation for budget and State of the Union and stuff, I just feel fairly sure we are going to have to have a daily briefing.

Do you have any preference as to time? It will take me a little time in the morning to sit down with him and find out the answers to some of your questions.

Q I was thinking of the East deadlines.

MR. NESSEN: I know we will be in a little trouble with the East deadlines.

What would you say if he does work in the morning for a couple of hours and then leaves to ski 11:00 or 11:30, having our briefing in that 11:00 to 11:30 area?

Q Great.

Q After he has gone out?

Q Then we would not be able to cover him.

MR. NESSEN: After the first couple of days, and then, the 24th, when we have the big photographic thing on the slopes, is everybody interested in going up all day with him?

Q Yes, sir.

MR. NESSEN: I think we will have a protective pool up there everyday with him; isn't that our plan?

Q That would be good.

MR. NESSEN: That is what we had planned on.

Q When you say briefings everyday, is that a five-day briefing, or seven-day week?

MR. NESSEN: Obviously, we are going to be available all the time.

Tom?

Q Is the protective pool going to include people that will be able to ski?

MR. NESSEN: Eric is going out there tomorrow and see what the facilities are and the lift situation and all the rest.

Q He will be very briefly at the top of the mountain and in the chair very briefly?

MR. NESSEN: Do we have a skiing protective pool? The White House Ski Patrol.

Q Do we have a ski press secretary?

MR. NESSEN: No, you don't, and you are not going to get one either.

Q Will Cabinet members and White House officials be coming down during the period?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, as they are needed they would come out if they are needed.

Q Would you expect there will be some?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know at this moment.

Q Ron, what was your answer about the extent of security costs and so on?

MR. NESSEN: I said I did not know.

Q Will you find out?

MR. NESSEN: The question was what about the rental of those two houses, right, how much was that, and you want to know about the cost of the security.

Q The cost of special security for the Bass house and anything else.

Q Also how does the President rank as a skier, beginner, intermediate, advanced, or headwall or expert?

MR. NESSEN: He is a hot dog, I think.

Q What is that?

MR. NESSEN: That is a joke.

Q Is he a downhill racer? Honestly, where does he rank?

MR. NESSEN: I have never been out skiing with him. Phil was there last year. Maybe Phil knows.

Q His skiing instructor says he is an intermediate skier.

MR. NESSEN: And the President said last night his kids are better than he is. He said this morning in the office that he was going to have trouble keeping up with his kids.

Q Who is going with him besides his family?

MR. NESSEN: Mrs. Ford and Susan will go from here, and I guess Jack and Steve will join up there.

Sheila Weidenfeld is going, and I hope will provide a lot of the answers that Helen and others have about social activities if there are any.

Q One suggestion. You are talking about the number of briefings. I would like to suggest we have two a day. One after the morning, and one late in the late evening after he has done whatever he is going to do.

MR. NESSEN: Let's wait and get out there and see if there is enough to justify that. That is a thought. As I said, Sheila Weidenfeld even now can begin to help you with the family and that kind of thing.

Q Given all this good news about weather and logistics, has the President heard there are two houses likely to come up for sale in Key Biscayne?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what that exactly means. (Laughter)

Q Bebe lost his bid yesterday to have those drives declared private for perpetuity. He said he is going to sell, and I just like the weather better.

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you buy them?