

I believe that this procedure is contrary to the Constitution, and that my approval of it would threaten an erosion of the constitutional powers and responsibilities of the President. I have already directed the Attorney General to become a party plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a similar provision in the Federal Election Campaign Act.

In addition, this provision would allow the House of Representatives to block adoption of what is essentially an amendment to a treaty, a responsibility which is reserved by the Constitution to the Senate.

This legislation would forge impermissible shackles on the President's ability to carry out the laws and conduct the foreign relations of the United States. The President cannot function effectively in domestic matters, and speak for the Nation authoritatively in foreign affairs, if his decisions under authority previously conferred can be reversed by a bare majority of one House of the Congress.

The Convention—which has already been approved by the Senate—makes important changes in the international rules for safe navigation. It will enter into force in July 1977. The United States should become a party to it. If the United States does not implement the Convention before it enters into force, there will be major differences between the navigational rules followed by U.S. ships and by the ships of many other countries. These differences will increase the danger of collisions at sea and create hazards to life and property at sea.

I strongly urge the 95th Congress to pass legislation early next year that will be consistent with our Constitution, so that the United States can implement the Convention before it enters into force.

H.R. 10073

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I have withheld my approval from H.R. 10073, "An Act to provide for the mandatory inspection of domesticated rabbits slaughtered for human food, and for other purposes."

This bill would make applicable to domesticated rabbits, with minor exceptions, the provisions of the Poultry Products Inspection Act. It would require the Secretary of Agriculture to implement a mandatory inspection program for all domesticated rabbit meat sold in commerce, with certain exemptions related to type and volume of operations.

It should be noted that the Food and Drug Administration now inspects rabbit meat to ensure that it complies with Federal pure food laws. Thus, there is no health protection reason for requiring mandatory Agriculture Department inspection of rabbit meat.

The effect of this act would be to substitute a mandatory taxpayer-financed Agriculture Department inspection program for a voluntary one that is now provided under another law and paid for by the processors and consumers of rabbit meat. Since the voluntary program already provides a means for certifying wholesomeness to those consumers who demand such protection for this specialty food and are willing to pay for the

protection, I do not believe that a mandatory program is wise public policy.

In addition, it is estimated that the cost to the taxpayer of government inspection provided by this Act could be more than ten cents per pound.

The limited benefit to be derived by a relative few consumers of rabbit meat cannot be justified in terms of the cost to the taxpayer. I am therefore not approving H.R. 10073.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4112. A letter from the General Counsel, U.S. General Accounting Office, transmitting a report on the release of budget authority required to be made available for obligation pursuant to section 1013(b) of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974; to the Committee on Appropriations.

4113. A letter from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting the annual report of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home for fiscal year 1975, and the report of the annual general inspection of the home for 1976 by the Inspector General, pursuant to the act of March 3, 1883, as amended [24 U.S.C. 59, 60]; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4114. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report on actions taken on recommendations contained in the annual report for fiscal year 1975 of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, dated July 25, 1975, pursuant to section 6(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act; to the Committee on Government Operations.

4115. A letter from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting the annual report and audit of the American National Red Cross for the year ended June 30, 1975, pursuant to section 6 of the act of January 5, 1905, as amended; to the Committee on International Relations.

4116. A letter from the General Counsel, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, transmitting an interim report on progress in the study of the impact on military expenditures of arms control measures mutually agreed to by the United States and the Soviet Union, pursuant to section 142 of Public Law 94-141; to the Committee on International Relations.

4117. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to section 112(b) of Public Law 92-403; to the Committee on International Relations.

4118. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Consumer Safety Commission, transmitting the fourth annual report of the Commission, covering fiscal year 1976, pursuant to section 27(j) of the Consumer Product Safety Act; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

4119. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Energy Administration, transmitting a report on changes in market shares of retail gasoline marketers during May and June 1976, pursuant to section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1970; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

4120. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting his initial report on the operation of the speedy trial plans adopted by the U.S. district courts under title I of the Speedy Trial Act, and the operation of pretrial services agencies established in 10 district courts on

a demonstration basis under title II of the act, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3155 and 3167; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4121. A letter from the Vice Chairman, Father Marquette Tercentenary Commission, transmitting the final report of the Commission, pursuant to section 2 of Public Law 89-187; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

4122. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting a supplement to the first annual report recommending deauthorization of certain projects, pursuant to section 12 of Public Law 93-251; (H.Doc. No. 94-654) to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation and ordered to be printed.

4123. A letter from the district engineer, Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, transmitting a draft plan of study of the water and related land resources of the Canadian River basin downstream of the Texas-New Mexico State line; to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation.

4124. A letter from the Chairman, Joint Committee on Congressional Operations, transmitting a draft of a proposed resolution to amend the House rules for the purpose of assisting in the reduction of the number of committees meeting on certain days of each month, pursuant to section 206 of the Committee Reform Amendments of 1974 (H. Res. 988); to the Committee on Rules.

4125. A letter from the Vice Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting the seventh quarterly report on trade between the United States and non-market economy countries, pursuant to section 410 of the Trade Act of 1974; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

RECEIVED FROM THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL

4126. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting a report on "buy-national" practices of the United States and some of its major trading partners; to the Committee on Government Operations.

4127. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting a report on the effectiveness of the Army's direct supply support system; jointly, to the Committees on Government Operations, and Armed Services.

4128. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting a report evaluating actions taken by the Energy Research and Development Administration in publishing and distributing copies of a pamphlet entitled "Shedding Light on Facts About Nuclear Energy" before the referendum on nuclear energy in California; jointly, to the Committee on Government Operations, and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ULLMAN: Committee of conference. Conference report on H.R. 10210 (Rept. No. 94-1745). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BROOKS: Committee on Government Operations. Administration of Public Law 89-306, procurement of ADP resources by the Federal Government (Rept. No. 94-1746). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FOLEY: Committee on Agriculture. H. Res. 1399. Resolution expressing the sense of the House relative to foreign palm oil development loans (Rept. No. 94-1747, pt. I) Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FOLEY: Committee on Agriculture. H. Res. 1400. Resolution expressing the sense of the House relative to a study by the Sec-