

mendations—lowering requirements for Federal assistance, providing increased equity by enabling the Small Business Administration to purchase preferred stock in such a company, lowering interest rates on SBA loans to such companies, and allowing them to organize as non-profit corporations so as to qualify for more favorable tax treatment. It also strengthens regular Small Business Investment Companies, permitting maximum utilization of the SBIC guarantee authority which this Administration had earlier sought, and which was enacted last year. As a result of this bill, more Americans—especially disadvantaged Americans—will be able to gain a piece of the economic action in our country, and we will be closer to our goal of providing an equal opportunity for every citizen to share fully in the great American adventure.

Meeting Health Needs

The Emergency Health Personnel Act Amendments of 1972, S. 3858, will strengthen and extend the life of the National Health Service Corps which has been working for the last 2 years to meet the needs of areas with critical health manpower shortages. In order to improve recruitment for this program, the bill also authorizes a program of scholarships for students in the health professions. This legislation addresses a need which has concerned me for a long time, and I am pleased to sign it into law.

Another important initiative in the health field is H.R. 15475, a bill which establishes a National Advisory Commission on Multiple Sclerosis to help determine the most effective means for finding the causes and cures for this disease. It represents a promising step in our battle against a terrible and elusive enemy, and I am happy to give it my approval.

Other Forward Steps

Among the many other bills receiving my approval are S. 2318, which will update and expand compensation benefits for longshoremen and harbor workers; S. 3843, which helps restore and replace essential railway facilities and equipment which were damaged during Hurricane Agnes and other natural disasters this past June; H.R. 8273, which liberalizes the Immigration and Nationality Act; and H.R. 15461, which implements the boundary treaty which our Government signed with Mexico in 1970. Another significant forward step is the creation, by H.R. 10751, of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, a measure which I discussed in a separate statement last week.

One of the purposes of another of these bills, H.R. 4678, is to prohibit the importation into the United States of precious pre-Columbian art treasures illegally removed from their countries of origin—our close friends and neighbors of Central America. It is with special pleasure that I sign this legislation.

I am also very happy to sign H.R. 14911, which will allow prisoners-of-war and those who are missing in action to accumulate military leave time at the normal rate without limitation, so that they or their survivors can be more

generously reimbursed when they are returned from prisoner-of-war or missing status. This same bill also carries out another Administration recommendation by authorizing a second Deputy Secretary of Defense to be appointed by the President.

NOTE: The list of bills referred to in the statement included the following: H.J. Res. 733, H.J. Res. 912, H.R. 1, H.R. 1467, H.R. 3786, H.R. 4678, H.R. 7093, H.R. 8273, H.R. 10556, H.R. 10638, H.R. 10751, H.R. 11563, H.R. 11773, H.R. 12807, H.R. 13158, H.R. 14542, H.R. 14628, H.R. 14911, H.R. 15461, H.R. 15475, H.R. 15735, H.R. 15763, H.R. 16074, H.R. 16804, H.R. 16883, H.R. 16925, H.R. 17034, H.R. 17038, S. 216, S. 655, S. 909, S. 1462, S. 1524, S. 1971, S. 2147, S. 2270, S. 2275, S. 2318, S. 2469, S. 2714, S. 2741, S. 2753, S. 2822, S. 3055, S. 3230, S. 3240, S. 3257, S. 3310, S. 3326, S. 3337, S. 3483, S. 3524, S. 3545, S. 3583, S. 3671, S. 3822, S. 3843, S. 3858, S.J. Res. 204, S.J. Res. 221.

For the public and private law numbers and the approval dates of the bills, see page 1618 of this issue.

Vetoes of Legislation

The President's Memorandum of Disapproval of Two Bills Concerning Programs for the Elderly. October 30, 1972

I have announced today the signing of H.R. 1—a bill which represents a tremendous forward step in improving the income position and health services for older Americans. Two other bills concerning the elderly have also come to me for signature—the Older Americans Comprehensive Service Amendments of 1972 (H.R. 15657) and the Research on Aging Act of 1972 (H.R. 14424). Although I support some of the goals of these two bills, careful review has persuaded me that neither bill provides the best means of achieving these goals. Both authorize unbudgeted and excessive expenditures and would also require duplications or fragmentations of effort which would actually impair our efforts to serve older Americans more effectively. I have decided therefore to withhold my approval from these two pieces of legislation.

Older Americans Comprehensive Service Amendments of 1972 (H.R. 15657)

Last March, I submitted to the Congress a plan for strengthening and expanding service delivery programs under the Older Americans Act. This program would begin the development of more comprehensive and better coordinated systems for delivering services at the local level. In addition, I submitted a proposal to broaden the highly successful Foster Grandparents Program. The Administration will continue its vigorous pursuit of both these objectives.

However, the Congress added to the bill containing these provisions a range of narrow, categorical service programs which would seriously interfere with our effort to develop coordinated services for older persons. This is particularly the case with two categorical manpower pro-

grams which were added on the floor of the Senate and were considered without regard to manpower programs already serving older persons. Furthermore, this bill would authorize new funding of more than \$2 billion between now and fiscal year 1975—far beyond what can be used effectively and responsibly.

I cannot responsibly approve H.R. 15657.

Research on Aging Act of 1972 (H.R. 14424)

In my Special Message to the Congress on Older Americans last March, I also emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive, coordinated program of aging research—one which includes disciplines ranging from biomedical research to transportation systems analysis, from psychology and sociology to management science and economics. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare has since appointed a new Technical Advisory Committee for Aging Research to develop a plan for bringing together all the resources available to the Federal Government in the aging research field.

H.R. 14424, however, would set up an entirely separate aging research institute that would duplicate these activities. This bill would create additional administrative costs without enhancing the conduct of biomedical research for the aging. In fact, it could even fragment existing research efforts. This bill also contains a new grant program for mental health facilities for the aging which duplicates the more general and flexible authorities contained in the Community Mental Health Centers Act.

In sum, I feel that both research and mental health programs for the aging should be carried out in the broader context of research on life-span processes and comprehensive mental health treatment programs now underway.

H.R. 14424 would not enhance and could inhibit Federal efforts to respond to the needs of the elderly, and I cannot give it my approval.

RICHARD NIXON

The White House,
October 30, 1972.

Commuter Train Wreck in Chicago

*Statement by the President Following the Tragedy,
October 30, 1972*

I want to express my deepest sympathy and concern over the tragic accident in Chicago this morning which has cost so many lives and inflicted so much suffering. The heart of the Nation goes out to the victims of this tragedy and to the people of Chicago.

NOTE: Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler read the statement at his afternoon news conference on Monday, October 30, 1972. It was not issued in the form of a White House press release.

Mr. Ziegler announced that the President, shortly after the accident, dispatched Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe

to Chicago to survey the damage first-hand. In addition, Mr. Ziegler said that because of the tragedy, the President had canceled plans to visit Chicago on Tuesday, October 31. The visit was later rescheduled for Friday, November 3.

Older Americans

*The President's Address on Nationwide Radio From
Camp David. October 30, 1972*

Good afternoon.

A President signs many bills, but one that I signed today gave me special satisfaction because of the enormous impact it can have on the lives of millions of individual Americans.

I refer to the legislation known as H.R. 1—and especially to its provisions for helping older Americans. Many of these provisions grew out of recommendations which I have been urging the Congress to act on for several years.

Let's look at some of the things H.R. 1 will do:

First, nearly 4 million widows and widowers will get larger social security benefits—the full 100 percent of what was payable to the individual's late husband or wife. This will mean more than \$1 billion in additional income for these deserving people in the next fiscal year.

Second, over a million and a half older Americans who are now working can earn more income without having their benefits reduced.

Until today, if you were receiving social security, every dollar you earned above \$1,680 cost you 50 cents in benefits—and every dollar you earned above \$2,880 cost you a full dollar. But under the new provision—which I have advocated for years—you can earn up to \$2,100 without losing a cent of social security, and every dollar you earn above that \$2,100—no matter how many—will cost you only 50 cents in benefits. This will encourage more older Americans to work—helping them and helping the country.

Third, millions of older Americans who live in poverty, along with the blind and the disabled, will be helped by a new Federal floor under their income—a monthly minimum of \$130 for an individual and \$195 for a couple. Free of the inequities and red tape which plague the present system, this program will channel an estimated \$1 billion in the next fiscal year to those whose needs are greatest. For millions of older people, it can mean a big step out of poverty and toward a life of dignity and independence.

In addition, H.R. 1 will pay a special minimum benefit of \$170 per month to 150,000 older persons who worked for long years a low wages. Men who retire at 62 will also be helped. Medicare coverage will be extended to cover 100 percent and not just 80 percent of home health services, and to cover more of the cost of nursing home care,