October 14, 1978

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval of H.R. 11092, which would require the Secretary of Commerce to report at least four times a year to the Congress of any changes in the retirement program for the employees of the Department of Commerce and Navy. This is not the best way to inform the Congress of the retirement program for employees of the Department of Commerce and Navy, and I am not convinced that the Secretary of Commerce has the resources to carry out this requirement.

JIMMY CARTER

H.R. 11092

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval of H.R. 11092, which would require the Secretary of Commerce to report at least four times a year to the Congress of any changes in the retirement program for the employees of the Department of Commerce and Navy. This is not the best way to inform the Congress of the retirement program for employees of the Department of Commerce and Navy, and I am not convinced that the Secretary of Commerce has the resources to carry out this requirement.

JIMMY CARTER

H.R. 6536

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval of H.R. 6536, which would make certain changes in the retirement program for police, firefighters, teachers, and judges of the District of Columbia. This action today in no way alters my commitment to the basic principles of fairness and self-determination which must be the cornerstone of Federal-District relations. Included among our ac-
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

October 14, 1978

38785


H.R. 13719

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I have withheld my approval of H.R. 13719, which would have authorized special Federal payments to Guam and the Virgin Islands to offset the local revenue losses during calendar years 1978 through 1983 caused by the Revenue Act of 1978.

Because income taxes paid by territorial residents to the governments of Guam and the Virgin Islands are based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, tax changes intended to reduce Federal income tax liabilities in the United States have a corresponding effect in reducing territorial tax liabilities. H.R. 13719 would have authorized direct grants to the territories to offset revenue losses associated with the 1978 tax act.

While recognizing the defects in the current territorial tax structure, which H.R. 13719 was designed to alleviate, particularly the effects of periodic Federal tax reductions on local revenues, I do not believe the bill provides an acceptable means of addressing the problem. By encouraging reasonable local tax efforts with direct Federal payments, the bill is simply another attempt to manage territorial deficits without addressing the underlying structure of Federal and local economies which have led to those deficits. We can no longer afford a piecemeal approach to the growing revenue problems of the territories.

Accordingly, although I am disapproving H.R. 13719, I am directing the Secretaries of the Interior and the Treasury to study the financial situation of both the Virgin Islands and Guam and to recommend a plan designed to help those governments achieve a higher degree of financial stability without perpetuating a piecemeal system which is costly to the Federal Government and which does not sufficiently encourage responsible financial management in these territories.

JIMMY CARTER.

H.R. 11545

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I have withheld my approval of H.R. 11545, the Meat Import Act of 1978.

I do so because the bill would severely restrict Presidential authority to increase meat imports and would place a floor or minimum access level for meat imports that I believe is too low. It deprives a President of the only anti-inflationary tool available in this area.

Current law allows the President substantial flexibility to increase meat imports when, in his judgment, domestic supplies are inadequate to meet demand at reasonable prices. I am convinced that this flexibility must be preserved, as a weapon against inflation.

Under this bill, however, authority to increase meat imports would be tied to the declaration of a national emergency or natural disaster, or to a restrictive price formula. Under this formula, the farm price of cattle would have to increase faster than the retail meat price by more than ten percent during the first two calendar quarters of a year. Under this...