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 unprocessed domestic coal—a situation which must 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.

In the light of 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 bills 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.

H.R. 17065
MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL
I have withheld my approval from H.R. 17065, a bill that would amend Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to provide support for the training of nurses.

This measure would authorize excessive Federal spending for nursing education which cannot long be tolerated, is disapproved.

I am withholding my approval from S. 2906, entitled "an act to provide price support for milk at not less than 65 per centum of the parity price thereafter, and for other purposes."

This bill would require an immediate increase of $1.12 per hundredweight in the support price for milk, to a record high $7.50. Thereafter, through March 31, 1978, further upward adjustments would be required every three months as necessary to reflect changes in the parity index and parity price for milk.

Such large increases in milk prices would produce a double inflationary barrier at a time when we are trying to persuade other nations to dismantle theirs.

Finally, the bill would be prejudicial to our trade policy because it would be inconsistent with our obligations under the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade. It would erect a trade barrier at a time when we are trying to persuade other nations to dismantle theirs.

Although there are other commodities which are subject to the same statutory restrictions that H.R. 2906 would impose on filberts, no new commodities have been included in that list since January of 1971. I cannot in good conscience support the addition of a new commodity just after signing into law the new Trade