S. 3883. An act for the relief of Doctor Juan Bautista Lopes Ruiz.

S. 3891. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

On October 12, 1976:
S. 3883. A joint resolution authorizing the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors for navi-gation, flood control, and other purposes.
S. J.Res. 209. A joint resolution authorizing the President to proclaim the week of October 10 through October 16, 1976, as "Native American Awareness Week".

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT
On October 26, 1976, the following Messages from the President of the United States were received:
The President has pocket vetoed the following:
Effective at midnight, October 12, 1976:
S. 3790. An act for the relief of Camilla A. Hester.

Effective at midnight, October 19, 1976:
S. 2081. An act to provide for the furthering of the conservation, protection, enhancement, and cooperation and cooperative agreement relationships from Federal grant and cooperative agreement relationships, and for other purposes.
S. 3583. An act to define the jurisdiction of the United States courts in suits against foreign states, the circumstances in which foreign states are immune from suit and in which execution may not be levied on their property, and for other purposes.

S. 2801 would have required the Federal Government—the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture—to appraise the land, water and related resources of the Nation, and to develop a plan and administer a program for the use of private and non-Federal lands.
I have several objections to S. 2801. The bill would set the stage for the creation of a large and costly bureaucracy to cooperate with State and local governments and private landowners in an attempt to insure land use in compliance with the master plan. Too often Federal "cooperation"—when accompanied by vast amounts of Federal dollars and a large bureaucracy—becomes Federal "direction."

I am not opposed to providing technical assistance to those who need it. The Federal Government, including the Soil Conservation Service, already does a great deal in the management and protection of our natural resources. My objection is to the establishment of a large bureaucracy to do it, and a bill to do it which contains two precedent-setting provisions which I consider very undesirable, not only for future private relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation, but also for ordinary relief legislation. I am withholding my approval of S. 3790, a private bill which would authorize a civil service survivor annuity retroactive to September 28, 1972, to Mrs. Camilla A. Hester as the widow of the late John A. Hester.
While I am sympathetic to Mrs. Hester's circumstances, S. 3790 unfortunately contains two precedent-setting provisions which I consider very undesirable, not only for future private relief legislation, but also for ordinary claims under the Civil Service Retirement System.

The first would require the Civil Service Commission to pay interest at 6 per cent per annum retroactive to 1972 on the survivor's benefit which would be authorized under S. 3790. The second would require the Treasury to pay Mrs. Hester $5,000 as compensation for her successful effort to be awarded the benefit. Neither of these provisions are appropriate, in my judgment, in bringing Mrs. Hester equitable relief.

For these reasons I am unable to approve S. 3790. I have signed other private relief legislation during the 94th Congress designed to rectify the inequitable circumstances arising from the "length of marriage" requirement in the civil service retirement law. However, those bills did not contain the objectionable provisions contained in S. 3790. I would be pleased, however, to consider legislation for Mrs. Hester that would provide appropriate relief without the objectionable features discussed above.

S. 2801 MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL
I am withholding my approval of S. 1437, the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1976.

This legislation has a laudable goal—to clarify and rationalize the legal instruments through which the Federal Government acquires property and services and furnishes assistance to State and local governments and other recipients. The bill would establish three categories of legal instruments which Federal agencies would be required to use: procurement contracts, grant agreements, and cooperative agreements. These categories would be defined according to their different purposes.
S. 1437 would also require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to undertake a study which would (1) "develop a better understanding of alternative means of implementing Federal assistance programs" and (2) ". . . determine the feasibility of developing a comprehensive system of guidance for Federal assistance programs."

The Office of Management and Budget