

APRIL 22, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S.J. Res. 35 -- National Employ the Older Worker Week. This bill authorizes and requests the President to designate the week beginning March 13, 1977 as "National Employ the Older Worker Week."

The proclamation will also call upon employer and employee organizations and all Americans to observe the week with appropriate activities designed to promote employment opportunities for older workers.

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The President has signed H.J. Res. 491 -- Allen J. Ellender Fellowships. This bill extends for four years the appropriation authorization for the Allen J. Ellender fellowships program, which provides financial assistance to enable disadvantaged secondary school students and their teachers to participate in a Washington public affairs program run by the Close Up Foundation.

The resolution will extend through fiscal year 1980 the fellowship program enacted in 1972 (Public Law 92-506) to honor the memory of Senator Ellender of Louisiana.

H.J. Res. 491 will make three changes in existing law. First, it would increase the annual authorization level to \$750,000 for fiscal years 1977 and 1978, and then to \$1 million for fiscal years 1979 and 1980. Second, the present limitation of 1,500 on the number of fellowships to be awarded each year will be removed. Third, a requirement will be added for every effort to be made to achieve participation in the program of students and teachers from rural as well as urban areas.

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