

MAY 14, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Memphis, Tennessee)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

S. 2115, Reserve call-up authority, will permit the President, when he determines that it is necessary to augment the active forces for any operational mission, to authorize the involuntary order to active duty of up to 50,000 members of the Selected Reserve (either in units or as individuals) for periods not to exceed 90 days.

Under current law, in a time of national emergency declared by the President after January 1, 1953, up to one million Ready Reservists may be ordered to active duty (other than for training) without their consent for not more than 24 consecutive months.

The bill will prohibit such call-ups for purposes of training or providing assistance during domestic disturbances or disasters, and the reemployment rights of members ordered to active duty under the bill will be protected.

S. 2115 also would require the President, within 24 hours of exercising the call-up authority, to report in writing to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, setting forth the circumstances necessitating his action and the anticipated use of the members or units ordered to active duty. Furthermore, the service of the activated members or units could be terminated by order of the President or by a concurrent resolution of the Congress. Finally, S. 2115 states explicitly that none of its provisions "shall be construed as amending or limiting the application... of the War Powers Resolution."

NOTE: The President is expected to sign this bill tonight in Louisville, Kentucky.

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