

AUGUST 14, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 3477 which extends for three years until August 31, 1977, the present subsidy for transportation of school children in the District of Columbia.

In 1968 Public Law 90-605 authorized the District of Columbia Government to pay to bus common carriers the difference between the reduced fare for school children and the normal adult fare. These carriers are required by law to offer reduced fares for school children, at a rate no higher than one-half the lowest adult fare. The reduced fare for school children is presently set at ten cents as compared to the adult fare of forty cents.

Prior to the enactment of P. L. 90-605, adult fares were set high enough to cover the cost of these reduced fares. That Act required that the cost be borne by the community as a whole. It expires August 31, 1974.

S. 3477 extends P. L. 90-605 for three years to August 31, 1977. It also provides that the District Government, under the D. C. Self Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, can legislate changes to this subsidy law after January 2, 1975. This provision was added in response to that Government's request that P. L. 90-605 be amended to allow it, rather than the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission, to set the fare for school children and to certify the amount of subsidy due the transit companies every month.

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