

Public Law 89-286, the Service Contract Act of 1965, was enacted for the principal purpose of requiring that the minimum wage be paid to service employees hired by agencies having contracts to provide service to the Federal Government. The act defines "service employee" as guards, watchmen, and any person engaged in a recognized trade or craft, or other skill, mechanical craft, or an unskilled, semi-skilled, manual labor occupation; or any other employee, including foreman or supervisor, in a position having a trade, craft, or labor experience, as a paramount requirement. The legislative history of the act indicates that it was not the intention of Congress to cover medical services. House Report No. 948 contains the following statement: "Thus, for example, contracts made by the District of Columbia government with local hospitals for the care of indigent patients would not be covered since 'service employees' as defined in the bill would be performing only incidental functions." In addition to this indication that medical services be exempt, section 4B of the bill provides authority for the Secretary of Labor to provide exemption "as he may find necessary and proper in the public interest or to avoid serious impairment of the conduct of the Government's business." The Secretary has made one such exemption relating to transportation agencies. The Secretary for his authority for the action he had taken and requested a reply at the earliest possible time. Eleven days later, on June 3, he received a brief acknowledgment, and on June 7 Chairman Teague directed another letter to the Secretary of Labor asking for a reply to the letter by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, and asked for a prompt response. To date no response has been received. On June 11 Chairman Teague sent a telegram pointing out to the Secretary of Labor that he had not received a reply to his letters, that he was convinced the interpretation was wrong, and that failure to act would result in serious impairment to the Veterans' Administration nursing home program. This telegram requested a prompt response. On June 11 Chairman Teague directed a letter to the President of the United States calling his attention to the conflict between