

July 17 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1984

has fallen 23 percent; in Michigan, 31 percent. And when the Commission on Drunk Driving submitted its report, it forcefully recommended that all 50 States should make 21 the legal drinking age.

And yet, today, less than half that number have the age-21 law. And that leaves us with a crazy-quilt of different States' drinking laws and far too many blood borders, borders where teens drive across to reach States with lower drinking ages. And these teenagers drink and then careen home and all too often cause crippling or fatal accidents.

This problem is bigger than the individual States. It's a grave national problem, and it touches all our lives. With the problem so clear-cut and the proven solution at hand, we have no misgiving about this judicious use of Federal power. I'm convinced that it will help persuade State legislators to act in the national interest to save our children's lives, by raising the drinking age to 21 across the country.

Now, many have toiled hard to make this bill possible—Members of Congress, Secretary Dole, thousands of concerned Americans like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Students Against Drunk Driving—by supporting legislation, they've done this nation a service. And each of them certainly have my heartfelt thanks and, I think, the thanks of all the people in our country.

So, God bless you. And I am now going to write; instead of talk, I'll sign.

Note: The President spoke at 1:29 p.m. at the signing ceremony in the Rose Garden at the White House.

As enacted, H.R. 4616 is Public Law 98-363, approved July 17.

Land Remote-Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984

*Statement on Signing H.R. 5155 Into Law,
July 17, 1984*

I am pleased to sign H.R. 5155, a bill that facilitates the commercialization of the Federal Government's civilian land remote-sensing satellite system, known as Landsat.

This legislation, which recognizes that competitive private sector involvement in land remote sensing is in the national interest, is a good example of cooperation between the administration and Congress.

One of the administration's primary goals in implementing this legislation will be to develop a program that requires minimum government involvement. The administration's policies of limiting burdensome governmental regulation and encouraging competition in the marketplace will guide the Secretary of Commerce's implementation of this legislation, and we will make every effort to minimize the duration and amount of any Federal subsidy.

Two provisions of the bill deserve special comment since the Attorney General has advised that they establish a procedure which is unconstitutional. Sections 202(c) and 303(c) require the Secretary of Commerce to transmit to the appropriate congressional committees any decision to enter into a contract under titles II and III of the bill and to wait for 30 days before implementing that decision. These sections also provide that the committees may, in effect, waive the prescribed waiting periods. Under the Supreme Court's decision in *Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Chadha*, 103 S. Ct. 2761 (1983), Congress, including committees of Congress, may not be given power which has "the purpose and effect of altering the legal rights, duties and relations of persons, including . . . Executive Branch officials . . ." through procedures which bypass the constitutional requirements for valid legislative action. Thus, the provisions in this bill purporting to empower the relevant committees to "waive" the 30-day waiting period are, under that Supreme Court decision, unconstitutional. X

I extend my appreciation to the Congress for the careful and timely consideration given this legislation, and I look forward to the successful commercialization of the Landsat system. This commercialization represents one of the administration's major efforts to return to the private sector those activities which it can best perform.

Note: As enacted, H.R. 5155 is Public Law 98-365, approved July 17.