

Atmospheric Administration, transmitting notification that due to the discontinued funding for the emergency striped bass research study, the annual report on that study will no longer be transmitted to Congress, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 757(g); to the Committee on Resources.

1283. A letter from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting the Secretary's certification that Italy has terminated large-scale driftnet fishing by its nationals and vessels, pursuant to Public Law 100-220, section 4004(b) (101 Stat. 1478); to the Committee on Resources.

1284. A letter from the Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report on an increase in the projected cost for the safety of dams modifications at Bumping Lake Dam, Yakima project, Washington, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 509; to the Committee on Resources.

1285. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Visitor Service Authorizations on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges (RIN: 1018-AC02) received January 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1286. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Laguna Mountain Skipper and Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (RIN: 1018-AC84) received January 13, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1287. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting the Judicial Conference of the United States biennial report to the Congress on the continuing need for all authorized bankruptcy judgeships, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 152(b)(2); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1288. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to provide for the conversion of existing temporary U.S. district judgeships to permanent status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1289. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting a report on the aircraft cabin air quality research program, pursuant to Public Law 103-305, section 304(e)(2) (108 Stat. 1592); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1290. A letter from the Director, National Legislative Commission, the American Legion, transmitting the proceedings of the 78th National Convention of the American Legion, held in Salt Lake City, UT on September 3, 4, and 5, 1996, as well as a report on the organization's activities from the year preceding the convention, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 49 (H. Doc. No. 105-27); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

1291. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting an updated report concerning the emigration laws and policies of Mongolia, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2432(b) (H. Doc. No. 105-24); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

1292. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the Advisory Committee on Judicial Review of Military Administrative Personnel Actions findings and recommendations, pursuant to section 551 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996; jointly, to the Committees on National Security and the Judiciary.

1293. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting notification that the Department of Health and Human Services is allotting emergency

funds made available under section 2602(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to North Dakota and South Dakota and the tribes located in those States, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 8623(g); jointly, to the Committees on Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

1294. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting notification of the actions the Secretary has taken regarding security measures at Eldorado International Airport, Bogota, Colombia, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44907(d)(3); jointly, to the Committees on International Relations and Transportation and Infrastructure.

1295. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Secretary's certification to the Congress regarding the incidental capture of Sea Turtles in commercial shrimping operations (China), pursuant to Public Law 101-162, section 609(b)(2) (103 Stat. 1038); jointly, to the Committees on Resources and Appropriations.

1296. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting a copy of the Board's request for supplemental funding for fiscal year 1997, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 1903(b)(7); jointly, to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations.

1297. A letter from the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Defense, transmitting a report on the implementation of the health resources sharing portion of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Health Resources Sharing and Emergency Operations Act for fiscal year 1996, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8111(f); jointly, to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and National Security.

1298. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General of the United States, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Environmental Crimes and Enforcement Act of 1997"; jointly, to the Committees on the Judiciary, Agriculture, Commerce, Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure.

¶4.4 MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

¶4.5 PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted the following resolution (H. Res. 31; Rept. 105-1):

Resolved, That the House adopt the report of the Select Committee on Ethics dated January 17, 1997, In the Matter of Representative Newt Gingrich.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, ruled that the resolution submitted did present a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX.

Pending consideration of said resolution,

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BE-REUTER, made the following statement:

"Before we proceed, the Chair will have a statement about the decorum expected of the Members.

"The Chair has often reiterated that members should refrain from references in debate to the conduct of other Members where such conduct is not the question actually pending before the House, either by way of a report from the Committee on Standards

of Official Conduct or by way of another question of the privileges of the House.

"This principle is documented on pages 168 and 526 of the House Rules and Manual and reflects the consistent rulings of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses. It derives its force primarily from clause 1 of rule XIV which broadly prohibits engaging in personality in debate. It has been part of the rules of the House since 1789.

"On the other hand, the calling up of a resolution reported by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or the offering of a resolution as a similar question of the privileges of the House, embarks the House on consideration of a proposition that admits references in debate to a Member's conduct. Disciplinary matters by their very nature involve personalities.

"Still, this exception to the general rule against engaging in personality—admitting references to a Member's conduct when that conduct is the very question under consideration by the House—is closely limited. This point was well stated on July 31, 1979, as follows:

While a wide range of discussion is permitted during debate on a disciplinary resolution, clause 1 of rule XIV still prohibits the use of language which is personally abusive.

"This is recorded in the Deschler-Brown Procedure in the House of Representatives in chapter 12 at section 2.11.

"On the question now pending before the House, the resolution offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Members should confine their remarks in debate to the merits of that precise question. Members should refrain from remarks that constitute personalities with respect to members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct or the Select Committee on Ethics or with respect to other sitting Members whose conduct is not the subject of the pending report. Finally, Members should exercise care to maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect.

"On January 27, 1909, the House adopted a report that stated the following:

It is the duty of the House to require its Members in speech or debate to preserve that proper restraint which will permit the House to conduct its business in an orderly manner and without unnecessarily and unduly exciting animosity among its Members.

"This is recorded in Cannon's Precedents in volume 8 at section 2497.

"The report adopted on that occasion responded to improper references in debate to the President, but it articulated a principle that occupants of the Chair over many Congresses have held equally applicable to Members' remarks toward each other.

"The Chair asks and expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House."

By unanimous consent, the time for debate was extended by 30 minutes.

Whereupon,