1723. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Seaway Regulations and Rules: Great Lakes Pilotage Rates (Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation) (RIN: 2135–AA08) received February 6, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1724. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's first report on the drinking water infrastructure needs survey, pursuant to Public Law 104–182; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1725. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Household Goods Tariffs [STB Ex Parte No. 555] received February 7, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1726. A letter from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dependency and Income [38 CFR Part 3] (RIN: 2900–AI47) received February 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1727. A letter from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Spouse and Surviving Spouse [38 CFR Part 3] (RIN: 2900–AI36) received February 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1728. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Deposits of Excise Taxes [Notice 97–151] received February 7, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1729. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting the CBO's sequestration preview report for fiscal year 1998, pursuant to Public Law 101–508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388–587); jointly, to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget.

1730. 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 2606(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to all States, tribes, and territories, pursuant to section 2604(g) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; jointly, to the Committees on Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

1731. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a report on deliveries under section 540 of Public Law 104–107 to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, pursuant to Public Law 104–107, section 540(c) (110 Stat. 736); jointly, to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

¶8.4 MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mrs. Sara Emery, one of his secretaries.

¶8.5 COMMITTEE RESIGNATION—MAJORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House the following communication, which was read as follows:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 4, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign my appointment to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Sincerely,

DUNCAN HUNTER.
Member of Congress.

By unanimous consent, the resignation was accepted.

¶8.6 JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House the following communication, which was read as follows:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 5, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, the Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am forwarding to you the Committee's recommendations for certain designations required by law for the 105th Congress.

First, pursuant to Section 8002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Committee designated the following members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation for the 105th Congress: Mr. Archer, Mr. Crane, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Stark.

Second, pursuant to Section 161 of the Trade Act of 1974, the Committee recommended the following members to serve as official advisors for international conference meetings and negotiating sessions on trade agreements: Mr. Archer, Mr. Crane, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Matsui.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

BILL ARCHER.
Chairman.

Ordered, That the Clerk notify the Senate of the foregoing appointments to the Joint Committee on Taxation.

¶8.7 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND TRADE AGREEMENTS ADVISERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, by unanimous consent, announced the Speaker's selection, pursuant to the provisions of section 161(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211) and upon the recommendation of the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the following Members of the committee to be accredited by the President as official advisers to the United States delegations to international conferences, meetings, and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements during the first session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress: Messrs. ARCHER, CRANE, THOMAS, RANGEL and MATSUI.

¶8.8 PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, by unanimous consent, announced that pursuant to the provisions of clause 1 of rule XLVIII and clause 6(f) of rule X, the Speaker appointed to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence the following Members: Messrs. YOUNG of Florida, LEWIS of California, SHUSTER, MCCOLLUM, CASTLE, BOEHLERT, BASS, GIBBONS, DICKS, DIXON, SKAGGS, Mses. PELOSI, and HARMAN.

¶8.9 COMMITTEE ELECTION—MINORITY

Mr. UNDERWOOD, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, submitted the following privileged resolution (H. Res. 44):

Resolved, that the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct: Mr. HOWARD L. BERMAN of California.

When said resolution was considered and agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶8.10 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK—DESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT CLERK

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House a communication, which was read as follows:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 10, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 4 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Ms. Julie Perrier to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which she would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

This designation shall remain in effect for the 105th Congress or until modified by me.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

¶8.11 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. COLLINS, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

Four years ago, we began a journey to change the course of the American economy. We wanted this country to go into the 21st century as a Nation in which every American who was willing to work for it could have a chance—not a guarantee, but a real chance—at the American dream. We have worked hard to achieve that goal, and today our economy is stronger than it has been in decades.

The Economic Record

The challenge we faced in January 1993 was to put the economy on a new course of fiscal responsibility while continuing to invest in our future. In the last 4 years, the unemployment rate has come down by nearly a third: from 7.5 percent to 5.4 percent. The economy has created 11.2 million new jobs, and over two-thirds of recent employment growth has been in industry/occupation groups paying above-median wages. Over the past 4 years inflation has averaged 2.8 percent, lower than in any Administration since John F. Kennedy was President. The combination of unemployment and infla-