

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Acquisition Regulation: Administrative Amendments [FRL-6222-5] received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

408. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities (RIN: 1018-AF02) received January 25, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

409. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [I.D. 122198B] received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

410. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-348-AD; Amendment 39-10937; AD 98-25-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

411. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Series Airplanes Modified in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate ST00015AT [Docket No. 97-NM-80-AD; Amendment 39-10963; AD 98-26-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

412. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Series Airplanes Modified in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate SA1444SO, SA1509SO, SA1543SO, SA1896SO, SA1740SO, or SA1667SO [Docket No. 97-NM-81-AD; Amendment 39-10964; AD 98-26-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

413. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Series Airplanes Modified in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate SA1767SO, SA1768SO, or SA7447SW [Docket No. 97-NM-09-AD; Amendment 39-10961; AD 98-26-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

414. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Series Airplanes Modified in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate SA1368SO, SA1797SO, or SA1798SO [Docket No. 97-NM-79-AD; Amendment 39-10962; AD 98-26-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

415. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Whole Effluent Toxicity: Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants; Final Rule, Technical Corrections [FRL-6227-4] received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

416. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his economic report, together with the annual report of the Council of Economic Advisers, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1022(a); (H. Doc. No. 106-2); to the Committee on the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed.

### ¶6.3 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a Concurrent Resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 6. Concurrent resolution authorizing flags located in the Capitol complex to be flown at half-staff in memory of R. Scott Bates, Legislative Clerk of the United States Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH) as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276k, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) to serve as a member of the National Council on the Arts.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission on Terrorism:

Richard Kevin Betts, of New Jersey; and

Maurice Sonnenberg, of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276k of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) as the Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints The Most Reverend Theodore E. McCarrick,

Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, to the Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals to the Trade Deficit Review Commission:

Dimitri B. Papadimitriou, of New York;

C. Richard D'Amato, of Maryland; and

Lester C. Thurow, of Massachusetts.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of Manuel H. Johnson, of Virginia, to serve as a member of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276l of title 22, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, appoints the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Online Child Protection:

Arthur Derosier, Jr., of Montana—Representative of academia with expertise in the field of technology;

Albert F. Gainer III, of Tennessee—Representative of a business providing Internet filtering or blocking services or software;

Donna Rice Hughes, of Virginia—Representative of a business making content available over the Internet;

C. Bradley Keirens, of Colorado—Representative of a business providing Internet access services; and

Karen L. Talbert, of Texas—Representative of a business providing labeling or ratings services.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission on Terrorism:

Wayne A. Downing, of Colorado;

Fred Ikle, of Maryland; and

John F. Lewis, of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 93-415, as amended by Public Law 102-586, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of William Keith Oubre, of Mississippi, to serve as member of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, vice Robert H. Maxwell, of Mississippi.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) as a member of the National Council on the Arts.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-244, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Web-Based Education Commission: Patti S. Abraham, of Mississippi; and George Bailey, of Montana.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission: Charles W. Calomiris, of New York; and Edwin J. Feulner, Jr., of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-255, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development: Judy L. Johnson, of Mississippi; and Elaine M. Mendoza, of Texas.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-293, as amended by Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: M.D.B. Carlisle, of Washington, D.C.; and Henry D. Sokolski, of Virginia.

#### ¶6.4 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington DC, February 4, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 4, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Economic Report of the President.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

#### ¶6.5 ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Clerk then read the message from the President, as follows:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to report that the American economy today is healthy and strong. Our Nation is enjoying the longest peacetime economic expansion in its history, with almost 18 million new jobs since 1993, wages rising at twice the rate of inflation, the highest home ownership ever, the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years, and unemployment and inflation at their lowest levels in three decades.

This expansion, unlike recent previous ones, is both wide and deep. All income groups, from the richest to the poorest, have seen their incomes rise since 1993. The typical family income is up more than \$3,500, adjusted for inflation. African-American and Hispanic households, who were left behind during the last expansion, have also seen substantial increases in income.

Our Nation's budget is balanced, for the first time in a generation, and we are entering the second year of an era of surpluses: our projections show that we will close out the 1999 fiscal year with a surplus of \$79 billion, the largest in the history of the United States. We are on course for budget surpluses for many years to come.

These economic successes are not accidental. They are the result of an economic strategy that we have pursued since 1993. It is a strategy that rests on three pillars: fiscal discipline, investments in education and technology, and expanding exports to the growing world market. Continuing with this proven strategy is the best way to maintain our prosperity and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

#### THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

Our new economic strategy was rooted first and foremost in fiscal discipline. We made hard fiscal choices in 1993, sending signals to the market that we were serious about dealing with the budget deficits we had inherited. The market responded by lowering long-term interest rates. Lower interest rates in turn helped more people buy homes and borrow for college, helped more entrepreneurs to start businesses, and helped more existing businesses to invest in new technology and equipment. America's economic success has been fueled by the biggest boom in private sector investment in decades—more than \$1 trillion in capital was freed for private sector investment. In past expansions, government bought more and spent more to drive the economy. During this expansion, government spending as a share of the economy has fallen.

The second part of our strategy has been to invest in our people. A global economy driven by information and fast-paced technological change creates ever greater demand for skilled workers. That is why, even as we balanced the budget, we substantially increased our annual investment in edu-

cation and training. We have opened the doors of college to all Americans, with tax credits and more affordable student loans, with more work-study grants and more Pell grants, with education IRAs and the new HOPE Scholarship tax credit that more than 5 million Americans will receive this year. Even as we closed the budget gap, we have expanded the earned income tax credit for almost 20 million low-income working families, giving them hope and helping lift them out of poverty. Even as we cut government spending, we have raised investments in a welfare-to-work jobs initiative and invested \$24 billion in our children's health initiative.

Third, to build the American economy, we have focused on opening foreign markets and expanding exports to our trading partners around the world. Until recently, fully one-third of the strong economic growth America has enjoyed in the 1990s has come from exports. That trade has been aided by 270 trade agreements we have signed in the past 6 years.

#### ADDRESSING OUR NATION'S ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

We have created a strong, healthy, and truly global economy—an economy that is a leader for growth in the world. But common sense, experience, and the example of our competitors abroad show us that we cannot afford to be complacent. Now, at this moment of great plenty, is precisely the time to face the challenges of the next century.

We must maintain our fiscal discipline by saving Social Security for the 21st century—thereby laying the foundations for future economic growth.

By 2030, the number of elderly Americans will double. This is a seismic demographic shift with great consequences for our Nation. We must keep Social Security a rock-solid guarantee. That is why I proposed in my State of the Union address that we invest the surplus to save Social Security. I proposed that we commit 62 percent of the budget surplus for the next 15 years to Social Security. I also proposed investing a small portion in the private sector. This will allow the trust fund to earn a higher return and keep Social Security sound until 2055.

But we must aim higher. We should put Social Security on a sound footing for the next 75 years. We should reduce poverty among elderly women, who are nearly twice as likely to be poor as other seniors. And we should eliminate the limits on what seniors on Social Security can earn. These changes will require difficult but fully achievable choices over and above the dedication of the surplus.

Once we have saved Social Security, we must fulfill our obligation to save and improve Medicare and invest in long-term health care. That is why I have called for broader, bipartisan reforms that keep Medicare secure until 2020 through additional savings and modernizing the program with market-