

missioner [T.C. Docket No. 17267-95] received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

466. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Agency's final rule—*Larontonda v. Commissioner*—received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

467. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Agency's final rule—*Larontonda v. Commissioner*—received January 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

468. A communication from the Assistant to the President and Director for Legislative Affairs, President of the United States, transmitting the Presidents "Report to Congress on a Comprehensive Plan for Responding to the Increase in Steel Imports"; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Appropriations.

¶7.9 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, February 8, 1999.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II 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 8, 1999 at 12:35 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the National Drug Control Strategy for 1999.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

¶7.10 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

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

To the Congress of the United States:

On behalf of the American people, I am pleased to transmit the 1999 National Drug Control Strategy to the Congress. This Strategy renews and advances our efforts to counter the threat of drugs—a threat that continues to cost our Nation over 14,000 lives and billions of dollars each year.

There is some encouraging progress in the struggle against drugs. The 1998 Monitoring the Future study found that youth drug use has leveled off and in many instances is on the decline—the second straight year of progress after years of steady increases. The study also found a significant strengthening of youth attitudes toward drugs: young people increasingly perceive drug use as a risky and unacceptable behavior. The rate of drug-related murders continues to decline, down from 1,302 in 1992 to 786 in 1997. Overseas, we have witnessed a decline in cocaine production by 325 metric tons in Bolivia and Peru over the last 4 years. Coca cultivation in Peru plunged 56 percent since 1995.

Nevertheless, drugs still exact a tremendous toll on this Nation. In a 10-

year period, over 100,000 Americans will die from drug use. The social costs of drug use continue to climb, reaching \$110 billion in 1995, a 64 percent increase since 1990. Much of the economic burden of drug abuse falls on those who do not abuse drugs—American families and their communities. Although we have made progress, much remains to be done.

The 1999 National Drug Control Strategy provides a comprehensive balanced approach to move us closer to a drug-free America. This Strategy presents a long-term plan to change American attitudes and behavior with regard to illegal drugs. Among the efforts this Strategy focuses on are:

—Educating children: studies demonstrate that when our children understand the dangers of drugs, their rates of drug use drop. Through the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program and other efforts, we will continue to focus on helping our youth reject drugs.

—Decreasing the addicted population: the addicted make up roughly a quarter of all drug users, but consume two-thirds of all drugs in America. Our strategy for reducing the number of addicts focuses on closing the "treatment gap."

—Breaking the cycle of drugs and crime: numerous studies confirm that the vast majority of prisoners commit their crimes to buy drugs or while under the influence of drugs. To help break this link between crime and drugs, we must promote the Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision initiative to better keep offenders drug- and crime-free. We can do this by helping States and localities to implement tough new systems to drug test, treat, and punish prisoners, parolees, and probationers.

—Securing our borders: the vast majority of drugs consumed in the United States enter this Nation through the Southwest border, Florida, the Gulf States, and other border areas and air and sea ports of entry. The flow of drugs into this Nation violates our sovereignty and brings crime and suffering to our streets and communities. We remain committed to, and will expand, efforts to safeguard our borders from drugs.

—Reducing the supply of drugs: we must reduce the availability of drugs and the ease with which they can be obtained. Our efforts to reduce the supply of drugs must target both domestic and overseas production of these deadly substances.

Our ability to attain these objectives is dependent upon the collective will of the American people and the strength of our leadership. The progress we have made to date is a credit to Americans of all walks of life—State and local leaders, parents, teachers, coaches, doctors, police officers, and clergy. Many have taken a stand against drugs. These gains also result from the

leadership and hard work of many, including Attorney General Reno, Secretary of Health and Human Services Shalala, Secretary of Education Riley, Treasury Secretary Rubin, and Drug Policy Director McCaffrey. I also thank the Congress for their past and future support. If we are to make further progress, we must maintain a bipartisan commitment to the goals of the Strategy.

As we enter the new millennium, we are reminded of our common obligation to build and leave for coming generations a stronger Nation. Our National Drug Control Strategy will help create a safer, healthier future for all Americans.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 8, 1999.

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committees on the Judiciary, Agriculture, Armed Services, Banking and Financial Services, Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Government Reform, International Relations, Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, Veterans Affairs, and Ways and Means.

¶7.11 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT— U.S. ROMANIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

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

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b) and (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Romania Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, with accompanying annex and agreed minute. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the agreement, and the memorandum of the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with the Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement concerning the agreement. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, which includes a summary of the provisions of the agreement and various other attachments, including agency views, is also enclosed.

The proposed agreement with Romania has been negotiated in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 and as otherwise amended. In my judgment, the proposed agreement meets all statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States. The agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and Romania under appropriate condi-

tions and controls reflecting our common commitment to nuclear non-proliferation goals. Cooperation until now has taken place under a series of supply agreements dating back to 1966 pursuant to the agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Government of Romania supports international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries. Romania is a party to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has an agreement with the IAEA for the application of full-scope safeguards to its nuclear program. Romania also subscribes to the Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines, which set forth standards for the responsible export of nuclear commodities for peaceful use, and to the guidelines of the NPT Exporters Committee (Zangger Committee), which obliges members to require the application of IAEA safeguards on nuclear exports to nonnuclear weapon states. In addition, Romania is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, whereby it agrees to apply international standards of physical protection to the storage and transport of nuclear material under its jurisdiction or control. Finally, Romania was one of the first countries to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

I believe that peaceful nuclear cooperation with Romania under the proposed new agreement will be fully consistent with, and supportive of, our policy of responding positively and constructively to the process of democratization and economic reform in Central Europe. Cooperation under the agreement also will provide opportunities for U.S. business on terms that fully protect vital U.S. national security interests.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

Because this agreement meets all applicable requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended, for agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation, I am transmitting it to the Congress without exempting it from any requirement contained in section 123 a. of that Act. This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations and House International Relations Committees as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 b., the 60-day

continuous session period provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 9, 1999.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 106-13).

¶7.12 PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT

Mr. COMBEST moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 169) to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to expand the pilot investigation for the collection of information regarding prices paid for the procurement of cattle and sheep for slaughter and of muscle cuts of beef and lamb to include swine and muscle cuts of swine; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, recognized Mr. COMBEST and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶7.13 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 391

Mr. SESSIONS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 106-13) the resolution (H. Res. 42) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 391) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, and for other purposes.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶7.14 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 436

Mr. SESSIONS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 106-14) the resolution (H. Res. 43) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 436) to reduce waste, fraud, and error in Government programs by making improvements with respect to Federal management and debt collection practices, Federal payment systems, Federal benefit programs, and for other purposes.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶7.15 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 437

Mr. SESSIONS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 106-15) the resolution (H. Res. 44) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 437) to provide for a Chief Financial Officer in the Executive Office of the President.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶7.16 MICROLOAN PROGRAM

Mr. TALENT moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 440) to make technical corrections to the Microloan Program; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, recognized Mr. TALENT and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. TALENT demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶7.17 FEDERAL PAPERWORK DEMANDS ON SMALL BUSINESSES

Mrs. KELLY moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 439) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act, to minimize the burden of Federal paperwork demands upon small businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions, Federal contractors, State and local governments, and other persons through the sponsorship and use of alternative information technologies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, recognized Mrs. KELLY and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. KELLY demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.