

there is nothing shared in this sacrifice and there is nothing noble in its purpose.

This is a story from Monday's Connecticut Post which explains how these Federal protections worked for two people. It reads:

Paralyzed in a car accident, a 38-year-old man lay flat on his back for four days in a Connecticut nursing home, able only to count the dots on ceiling tiles * * *

In another Connecticut nursing home, an elderly man who suffered a sudden onset of dementia was overdressed by staff to the point where he was unrecognizable and couldn't function * * *

In both cases, it took intervention by state ombudsmen wielding copies of federal nursing home standards to correct the problems and protect the residents.

And, there is nothing revolutionary about returning America's seniors to the health care dark ages of bed restraints and mind-altering drugs.

CASTRO'S TRAVELING ROAD SHOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week the Nation was witness to a great traveling road show which arrived from Havana. Its main star was the Cuban tyrant Fidel Castro, in his never ending campaign to reform his image from a ruthless dictator, which he is, to a harmless politician, which he is not.

Even though Castro's acting is cruelly trite and cynically predictable, it hypnotized much of American media, business leaders and, I am disappointed to say, some Members of our body. It was quite revolting to see how this dictator, who leads a regime that our State Department characterized as "sharply restricting basic political and civil rights, including the rights of citizens to change their government, the freedoms of speech, press, association, assembly and movement, as well as the right to privacy and various workers rights," well, he was warmly greeted in the Bronx by three of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle who hail from New York City, including the dean of the city's delegation.

This group of Congressman ignored the well-known repression of the Castro regime, repression which is condemned by human rights groups like Amnesty International, which said about Castro's regime that "members of unofficial political human rights and trade union groups continue to face imprisonment, short-term detention and frequent harassment."

□ 1930

Instead, the congressional groupies accepted Castro with open arms. My Democrat colleague from the Bronx hosted a rally for the dictator on Monday evening telling the Cuban tyrant that he would always be welcomed in that city. My favorite however, was an-

other Member of this body from that city's delegation who, even though she was forced to wait in line to attend the rally, stated that she did not mind waiting in line to see Fidel Castro.

You would think that such enthusiasm is reserved only for movie stars, but not in this instance. It is a shame that Members of this body carry such low respect for our democratic system that they would salivate over the leader who has gone to great extremes to destroy democracies around the world, and who still speaks negatively of political pluralism.

Sadly, another one of my colleagues has accepted Castro's invitation to travel to Cuba, along with a delegation of representatives of American corporations. How can our Federal official authorize such a business trip? Let us hope that they do not.

Mr. Speaker, similarly outrageous was the reception that the United Nations gave Castro. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali warmly embraced Castro as he entered the organization. This shameful portrayal made by the United Nations leader is symptomatic of the hypocrisy embodied in that body, as it speaks of freedom and human rights, but then goes ahead and turns its back on the millions of Cubans who suffer under Fidel Castro.

This same organization now wants to implement global taxes to fund its inefficient bureaucracy. Reports have emerged recently that the United Nations wants to implement taxes on international currency and stock transactions, as a means to gain greater revenue for its activities. This initiative would gravely affect American citizens and businesses who already are the biggest contributors to the United Nations. This is a dangerous phenomenon which grossly expands the scope and mission of the organization and one which the Congress should raise its voice against.

The great missing link in Castro's visit were questions about his regime. None of the American media, congressional Members or business leaders bothered to ask Castro about the repressive nature of his regime. Nobody asked him about the political prisoners. No one asked him about the fate of Rev. Orson Vila Santoyo, who continues imprisoned for practicing his religious faith. No one asked him of the fate of Nilvio Labrada, who was put in a mental institution for demonstration against Fidel Castro. No one asked Castro when he would leave power, conduct elections, allow freedom of expression, allow opposition on the island. Nobody. Instead, those who fraternized with Castro had a mission. Business leaders want to make a quick buck off the Cuban workers sweat in Castro's plantation economy. The media continued its romanticized description of Castro, ignoring his human rights offenses, and my liberal congressional colleagues were just willing political pawns in Castro's propaganda.

Mr. Speaker, Castro came and went but his repression against the Cuban people remains today. This should always be the bottom line when dealing with Castro, and it is unfortunate that many sold their soul to the devil for, in the end, their mission will be unsuccessful. The Cuban people will be free someday, and they will remember, together with history, who stood for freedom and who preferred to prostitute themselves to the whims of the tyrant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ROEMER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2020, TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. LIGHTFOOT submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2020) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 104-291)

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2020) "making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes," having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendments numbered 4, 10, 30, 32, 33, 39, 41, 42, 44, 50, 51, 64, 73, 83, 85, 87, 89, 90, 91, 98, 99, 110, 111, 118, 124, 134, 137, 138, and 141.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 1, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 19, 21, 25, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, 38, 40, 45, 49, 53, 54, 55, 61, 63, 66, 71, 72, 75, 79, 80, 81, 82, 86, 92, 94, 95, 96, 100, 102, 103, 105, 106, 108, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, and 123, and agree to the same.

Amendment No. 2:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 2, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted in said amendment insert: *\$105,929,000, of which up to \$500,000 shall be available to reimburse the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department for personnel costs incurred by the Metropolitan Police Department between May 19, 1995 and September 30, 1995 as a result of the closing to vehicular traffic of Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest and other streets in the vicinity of the White House: Provided, That Section 640 of Title VI of the Treasury Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Act, 1995 (Public Law 103-329, 108 Stat. 2432), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "This section shall not apply to any claim where the employee has received any compensation for overtime hours worked during the period covered by the claim under any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, 5 U.S.C. 5545(c), or to any claim for compensation for time spent commuting between the employee's residence and duty station."*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 3:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 3, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed in said amendment, insert:

TREASURY BUILDINGS AND ANNEX REPAIR AND RESTORATION

For the repair, alteration, and improvement of the Treasury Building and annex, and the Secret Service Headquarters Building, \$21,491,000, to remain available until expended.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 5:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 5, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *\$10,000,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 6:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 6, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

Restore the matter stricken in said amendment amended to read as follows: *travel expenses of non-Federal law enforcement personnel to attend meetings concerned with financial intelligence activities, law enforcement, and financial regulation*;

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 7:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 7, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert: *\$22,198,000; Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network may procure up to \$500,000 in specialized, unique or novel automatic data processing equipment, ancillary equipment, software, services, and related resources from commercial vendors without regard to otherwise applicable procurement laws and regulations and without full and open competition, utilizing procedures best suited under the circumstances of the procurement to efficiently fulfill the agency's requirements: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this account may be used to procure personal services contracts*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 12:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 12, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *\$184,300,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 15:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 15, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

Restore the matter stricken in said amendment, amended to read as follows: *: Provided further, That no funds appropriated herein shall be used to pay administrative expenses or the compensation of any officer or employee of the United States to implement an amendment or amendments to 27 CFR 178.118 or to change the definition of "Curios or relics" in 27 CFR 178.11 or remove any item from ATF Publication 5300.11 as it existed on January 1, 1994*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 17:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 17, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, : *Provided further, That the Commissioner of the Customs Service designate a single individual to be port director of all United States Government activities at two ports of entry, one on the southern border and one on the northern border: Provided further, That \$750,000 shall be available for additional part-time and temporary positions in the Honolulu Customs District*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 18:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 18, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed in said amendment, insert: *\$64,843,000 which* ; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 20:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 20, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *\$1,723,764,000* ; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 22:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 22, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

Restore the matter stricken in said amendment, amended to read as follows: *: Provided, That \$13,000,000 shall be used to initiate a program to utilize private counsel law firms and debt collection agencies in the collection activities of the Internal Revenue Service in compliance with section 104 of this Act and, on page 13, line 3, of the House of Representatives engrossed bill, H.R. 2020, after "which" insert "up to" and, on line 4, after "Program," delete "no amount of which shall be available for IRS administrative costs,"* ; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 23:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 23, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert: *\$1,527,154,000, of which no less than \$695,000,000 shall be available for tax systems modernization activities* ; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 24:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 24, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted in said amendment, insert: *: Provided, That of the funds appropriated for tax systems modernization, \$100,000,000 may not be obligated*

until the Secretary of the Treasury provides a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and the Senate that (1) with explicit decision criteria, identifies, evaluates, and prioritizes all systems investments planned for fiscal year 1996, (2) provides a schedule for successfully mitigating deficiencies identified by the General Accounting Office in its April 1995 report to the Committees, (3) presents a milestone schedule for development and implementation program, and (4) presents a plan to expand the utilization of external expertise for systems development and total program integration; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 26:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 26, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *\$531,944,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 27:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 27, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted in said amendment, insert:

(a) As authorized by section 190001(e), \$69,314,000 of which \$25,690,000 shall be available to the United States Customs Service for expenses associated with "Operation Hardline"; of which \$21,010,000 shall be available to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of which no less than \$14,410,000 shall be available to annualize the salaries and related costs for the fiscal year 1995 supplemental initiative, and of which no less than \$3,500,000 shall be available for administering the Gang Resistance Education and Training program, and of which \$3,100,000 shall be available for ballistics technologies; of which \$21,600,000 shall be available to the United States Secret Service, of which no less than \$1,600,000 shall be available for enhancing forensics technology to aid missing and exploited children investigations; and of which \$1,014,000 shall be available to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; and ; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 31:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 31, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the section number named in said amendment, insert: *107*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 37:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 37, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter inserted in said amendment, insert:

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Council in carrying out its functions under the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1021), \$3,180,000.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 43:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 43, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

Restore the matter stricken by said amendment, amended to read as follows:

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; for research activities pursuant to title I of Public Law 100-690; not to exceed \$8,000 for official reception and representation expenses; for participation in

joint projects or in the provision of services on matters of mutual interest with nonprofit, research, or public organizations or agencies, with or without reimbursement; \$23,500,000, of which \$16,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available to the Counter-Drug Technology Assessment Center for counternarcotics research and development projects and shall be available for transfer to other Federal departments or agencies; and of the funds made available to the Counter-Drug Technology Assessment Center, \$600,000 shall be transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration for the El Paso Intelligence Center: *Provided, That the Office is authorized to accept, hold, administer, and utilize gifts, both real and personal, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Office.*

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 46:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 46, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS
PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, \$103,000,000 for drug control activities consistent with the approved strategy for each of the designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, of which no less than \$55,000,000 shall be transferred to State and local entities for drug control activities; and of which up to \$48,000,000 may be transferred to Federal agencies and departments at a rate to be determined by the Director: *Provided, That the funds made available under this head shall be obligated within 90 days of the date of enactment of this Act.*

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 47:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 47, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, \$784,000, of which \$334,000 is to carry out the provisions of Public Law 104-4, and of which \$450,000 shall be available only for the purposes of the prompt and orderly termination of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 48:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 48, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
STATES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Administrative Conference of the United States, established under subchapter V of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, \$600,000: *Provided, That these funds shall only be available for the purposes of the prompt and orderly termination of the Administrative Conference of the United States by February 1, 1996.*

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 52:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate num-

bered 52, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$20,542,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 56:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 56, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$5,066,149,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 57:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 57, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$545,002,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 58:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 58, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

New Construction:

Colorado:

Lakewood, Denver Federal Center, U.S. Geological Survey Lab Building, \$25,802,000

Florida:

Tallahassee, U.S. Courthouse Annex, \$24,015,000

Georgia:

Savannah, U.S. Courthouse Annex, \$2,597,000

Louisiana:

Lafayette, Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, \$29,565,000

Maryland:

Prince Georges County, Food and Drug Administration, \$55,000,000

Nebraska:

Omaha, Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, \$53,424,000

New Mexico:

Albuquerque, Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, \$6,126,000

New York:

Central Islip, Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, \$189,102,000

North Dakota:

Pembina, Border Station, \$11,113,000

Pennsylvania:

Scranton, Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Annex, \$24,095,000

South Carolina:

Columbia, U.S. Courthouse Annex, \$3,562,000

Texas:

Austin, Veterans Affairs Annex, \$7,940,000

Brownsville, Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, \$27,452,000

Washington:

Point Roberts, U.S. Border Station, \$3,516,000

Seattle, U.S. Courthouse, \$5,600,000

West Virginia:

Martinsburg, Internal Revenue Service Computer Center, \$63,408,000

Non-prospectus Projects Program, \$12,685,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 59:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 59, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert: *Provided further, That the \$6,000,000 under the heading of nonprospectus construction projects, made available in Public Laws 102-393 and 103-123 for the acquisition, lease, construction and equipping of flexiplace work telecommuting centers, is hereby increased by \$5,000,000 from funds made available in this Act for non-prospectus construction projects, all of which shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That of the \$5,000,000 made available by this*

Act, half shall be used for telecommuting centers in the State of Virginia and half shall be used for telecommuting centers in the State of Maryland: Provided further, That of the funds made available for the District of Columbia, Southeast Federal Center, under the heading, "Real Property Activities, Federal Buildings Fund, Limitations on Availability of Revenue" in Public Law 101-509, \$55,000,000 are rescinded: Provided further, That the limitation on the availability of revenue contained in such Act is reduced by \$55,000,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 60:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 60, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$637,000,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 62:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 62, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

Repairs and Alterations:

Arkansas:

Little Rock, Federal Building, \$7,551,000

California:

Sacramento, Federal Building (2800 Cottage Way), \$13,636,000

District of Columbia:

ICC/Connecting Wing Complex/Customs (phase 2/3), \$58,275,000

Illinois:

Chicago, Federal Center, \$45,971,000

Maryland:

Woodlawn, SSA East High-Low Buildings, \$17,422,000

North Dakota:

Bismarck, Federal Building, Post Office and U.S. Courthouse, \$7,119,000

Pennsylvania:

Philadelphia, Byrne-Green Complex, \$30,909,000

Philadelphia, SSA Building, Mid-Atlantic Program Service Center, \$11,376,000

Puerto Rico:

Old San Juan, Post Office and U.S. Courthouse, \$25,701,000

Texas:

Dallas, Federal Building (Griffin St.), \$5,641,000

Washington:

Richland, Federal Building, U.S. Post Office, and Courthouse, \$10,000,000

Nationwide:

Chlorofluorocarbons Program, \$43,533,000

Elevator Program, \$13,109,000

Energy Program, \$20,000,000

Advance Design, \$22,000,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 65:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 65, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the proposed by said amendment, insert: \$2,326,200,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 67:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 67, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

Restore the matter stricken by said amendment amended to read as follows: *Provided further, That the Administrator is authorized to enter into and perform such leases, contracts, or other transactions with any agency or instrumentality of the United States, the several States, or the District of Columbia, or with any person, firm, association, or corporation, as may be necessary to implement the trade center plan at the Federal Triangle Project; and the Senate agree to the same.*

Amendment No. 68:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 68, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$5,066,149,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 69:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 69, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted in said amendment, insert:

OPERATING EXPENSES

For expenses authorized by law, not otherwise provided for, necessary for asset management activities; utilization of excess and disposal of surplus personal property; transportation management activities; procurement and supply management activities; Government-wide and internal responsibilities relating to automated data management, telecommunications, information resources management, and related activities; utilization survey, deed compliance inspection, appraisal, environmental and cultural analysis, and land use planning functions pertaining to excess and surplus real property; agency-wide policy direction; Board of Contract Appeals; accounting, records management, and other support services incident to adjudication of Indian Tribal Claims by the United States Court of Federal Claims; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and not to exceed \$5,000 for official reception and representation expenses; \$119,091,000.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 70:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 70, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$33,274,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 74:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 74, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the section number named, insert: 5; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 76:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 76, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed in said amendment, insert:

SEC. 7. Notwithstanding any provision of this or any other Act, during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and thereafter, no funds may be obligated or expended in any way for the purpose of the sale, excessing, surplus, or disposal of lands in the vicinity of Norfolk Lake, Arkansas, administered by the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, without the specific approval of the Congress.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 77:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 77, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed in said amendment, insert:

SEC. 8. Notwithstanding any provision of this or any other Act, during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and thereafter, no funds may be obligated or expended in any way for the purpose of the sale, excessing, surplus, or disposal of lands in the vicinity of Bull Shoals Lake, Arkansas, administered by the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, without the specific approval of the Congress.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 78:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 78, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the first section number in said amendment, insert: 9; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 84:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 84, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert: \$88,000,000, of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be made available for the establishment of health promotion and disease prevention programs for Federal employees; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 88:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 88, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

Restore the matter stricken in said amendment, amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Section 1104 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting after "title" the following: "the cost of which examinations shall be reimbursed by payments from the agencies employing such judges to the revolving fund established under section 1304(e)"; and

(ii) by striking the semicolon at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting in lieu thereof a period; and

(B) by striking the matter following paragraph (2) through "principles."; and

(2) in subsection (b) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) At the request of the head of an agency to whom a function has been delegated under subsection (a) (2), the Office may provide assistance to the agency in performing such function. Such assistance shall, to the extent determined appropriate by the Director of the Office, be performed on a reimbursable basis through the revolving fund established under section 1304(e)."

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 93:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 93, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: \$33,269,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 97:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 97, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

Restore the matter stricken by said amendment, amended to read as follows:

SEC. 512. Notwithstanding any provision of this or any other Act, during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and thereafter, no funds may be obligated or expended in any way to withdraw the designation of the Virginia Inland Port at Front Royal, Virginia, as a United States Customs Service port of entry.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 101:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 101, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert: in fiscal year 1996 for those operations and programs previously provided for by appropriation; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 104:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 104, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted in said amendment, insert: *(retention of receipts is for the circulating operations and programs): Provided further, That the Secretary of the Treasury shall; and the Senate agree to the same.*

Amendment No. 107:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 107, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert: *Provided further, That provisions of law governing procurement or public contracts shall not be applicable to the procurement of goods or services necessary for carrying out Mint programs and operations; and the Senate agree to the same.*

Amendment No. 109:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 109, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 524. No funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to pay for an abortion, or the administrative expenses in connection with any health plan under the Federal employees health benefit program which provides an benefits or coverage for abortions, after the last day of the contract currently in force for any such negotiated plan.

SEC. 525. The provision of section 524 shall not apply where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or that the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 122:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 122, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

Restore the matter stricken by said amendment, amended to read as follows:

SEC. 627. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training when it is made known to the Federal official having authority to obligate or expend such funds that such employee training—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or "new age" belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N-195.022, dated September 2, 1988;

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants' personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace; or

(6) includes content related to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) other than that necessary to make employees more aware of the medical ramifications of HIV/AIDS and the workplace rights of HIV-positive employees.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 125:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 125, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the first section number in said amendment, insert: 628; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 126:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 126, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 629. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act may be expended by any Federal Agency to procure any product or service that is subject to the provisions of Public Law 89-306 and that will be available under the procurement by the Administrator of General Services known as "FTS2000" unless—

(1) such product or service is procured by the Administrator of General Services as part of the procurement known as "FTS2000"; or

(2) that agency establishes to the satisfaction of the Administrator of General Services that—

(A) that agency's requirements for such procurement are unique and cannot be satisfied by property and service procured by the Administrator of General Services as part of the procurement known as "FTS2000"; and

(B) the agency procurement pursuant to such delegation, would be cost-effective and would not adversely affect the cost-effectiveness of the FTS2000 procurement.

(b) After July 31, 1996, subsection (a) shall apply that if the Administrator of General Services has reported that the FTS2000 procurement is producing prices that allow the Government to satisfy its requirements for such procurement in the most cost-effective manner.

(c) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct and deliver a comprehensive analysis of the cost of the Federal government of all Federal agency telecommunications services and traffic, by agency, and provide such report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by no later than May 31, 1996: Provided, That such report shall (1) identify which agencies are using FTS2000 systems; (2) determine whether or not such usage is cost-effective; and (3) provide a comparison of telecommunication costs between agencies that use or do not use FTS2000.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 127:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 127, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the first section number named in said amendment, insert: 630; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 128:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 128, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

Sec. 631. (a) Section 5402 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f) by striking out "During the period beginning January 1, 1985, and ending January 1, 1999, the " and inserting in lieu thereof "The"; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

"(D) have provided schedule service within the State of Alaska for at least 12 consecutive months with aircraft—

"(i) up to 7,500 pounds payload capacity before being selected as a carrier of nonpriority bypass mail at an applicable intra-Alaska bush service mail rate; and

"(ii) over 7,500 pounds payload capacity before being selected as a carrier of nonpriority bypass mail at the intra-Alaska mainline service mail rate."

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be effective on and after August 1, 1995.

(2) Subparagraph (D) of section 5402(g)(1) title 39, United States Code (as in effect before the amendment made under subsection (a)) shall apply to a carrier, if such carrier—

(A) has an application pending before the Department of Transportation for approval under section 41102 or 41110(e) of title 39, United States Code, before August 1, 1995; and

(B) would meet the requirements of such subparagraph if such application were approved and such certificate were purchased.

(c) Section 41901(g) of title 49, United States Code, is repealed.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 129:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 129, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 632. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act for the Department of the Treasury shall be available for any activity or for paying the salary of any Government employee where funding an activity or paying a salary to a Government employee would result in a decision, determination, rule, regulation, or policy that would permit the Secretary of the Treasury to make any loan or extension of credit under section 5302 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to a single foreign entity or government of a foreign country (including agencies or other entities of that government)—

(1) with respect to a loan or extension of credit for more than 60 days, unless the President certifies to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Banking and Financial Services of the House of Representatives that—

(A) there is no projected cost (as that term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990) to the United States from the proposed loan or extension of credit; and

(B) any proposed obligation or expenditure of United States funds to or on behalf of the foreign government is adequately backed by an assured source of repayment to ensure that all United States funds will be repaid; and

(2) other than as provided by an Act of Congress, if that loan or extension of credit would result in expenditures and obligations, including contingent obligations, aggregating more than \$1,000,000,000 with respect to that foreign country for more than 180 days during the 120-month period beginning on the date on which the first such action is taken.

(b) WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS.—The President may exceed the dollar and time limitations in subsection (a)(2) if he certifies in writing to the Congress that a financial crisis in that foreign country poses a threat to vital United States economic interests or the stability of the international financial system.

(c) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES FOR A RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—A presidential certification pursuant to subsection (b) shall not take effect, if the Congress, within thirty calendar days after receiving such certification, enacts a joint resolution of disapproval, as described in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(1) REFERENCE TO COMMITTEES.—All joint resolutions introduced in the Senate to disapprove the certification shall be referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and in the House of Representatives, to the appropriate committees.

(2) DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEES.—(A) If the committee of either House to which a resolution has been referred has not reported it at the end of 15 days after its introduction, it is in order to move either to discharge the committee from further consideration of the joint resolution or to discharge the committee from further consideration of any other resolution introduced with respect to the same matter, except no motion to discharge shall be in order after the committee has reported a joint resolution with respect to the same matter.

(B) A motion to discharge may be made only by an individual favoring the resolution, and is privileged in the Senate; and debate thereon shall be limited to not more than 1 hour, the time to be divided in the Senate equally between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—(A) A motion in the Senate to proceed to the consideration of a resolution shall be privileged.

(B) Debate in the Senate on a resolution, and all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 4 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

(C) Debate in the Senate on any debatable motion or appeal in connection with a resolution shall be limited to not more than 20 minutes, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the mover and the manager of the resolution, except that in the event the manager of the resolution is in favor of any such motion or appeal, the time in opposition thereto, shall be controlled by the minority leader or his designee. Such leaders, or either of them, may, from time under their control on the passage of a resolution, allot additional time to any Senator during the consideration of any debatable motion or appeal.

(D) A motion in the Senate to further limit debate on a resolution, debatable motion, or appeal is not debatable. No amendment to, or motion to recommit, a resolution is in order in the Senate.

(4) In the case of a resolution, if prior to the passage by one House of a resolution of that House, that House receives a resolution with respect to the same matter from the other House, then—

(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no resolution had been received from the other House; but

(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the resolution of the other House.

(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term "joint resolution" means only a joint resolution of the 2 Houses of Congress, the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: "That the Congress disapproves the action of the President under section 632(b) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1996, notice of which was submitted to the Congress on . . .", with the blank space being filled with the appropriate date.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—This section—

(1) shall not apply to any action taken as part of the program of assistance to Mexico announced by the President on January 31, 1995; and

(2) shall remain in effect through fiscal year 1996.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 130:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 130, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 633. For purposes of each provision of law amended by section 704(a)(2) of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 (5 U.S.C. 5318 note), no adjustment under section 5303 of title 5, United States Code, shall be considered to have taken effect in fiscal year 1996 in the rates of basic pay for the statutory pay systems.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 131:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 131, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the first section number named in said amendment, insert: 634; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 133:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 133, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 636. This section may be cited as the "Prohibition of Cigarette Sales to Minors in Federal Buildings and Lands Act".

(a) As used in this section—

(1) the term "Federal agency" means—

(A) an Executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) each entity specified in subparagraphs (B) through (H) of section 5721(1) of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term "Federal building" means—

(A) any building or other structure owned in whole or in part by the United States or any Federal agency, including any such structure occupied by a Federal agency under a lease agreement; and

(B) includes the real property on which such building is located;

(3) the term "minor" means an individual under the age of 18 years; and

(4) the term "tobacco product" means cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, snuff, and chewing tobacco.

(b)(1) No later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services and the head of each Federal agency shall promulgate regulations that prohibit—

(A) the sale of tobacco products in vending machines located in or around any Federal building under the jurisdiction of the Administrator or such agency head; and

(B) the distribution of free samples of tobacco products in or around any Federal building under the jurisdiction of the Administrator or such agency head.

(2) The Administrator of General Services or the head of an agency, as appropriate, may designate areas not subject to the provisions of paragraph (1), if such area also prohibits the presence of minors.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall be carried out—

(A) by the Administrator of General Services for any Federal building which is maintained, leased, or has title of ownership vested in the General Services Administration; or

(B) by the head of a Federal agency for any Federal building which is maintained, leased, or has title of ownership vested in such agency.

(c) No later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services and each head of an agency shall prepare and submit, to the appropriate committees of Congress, a report that shall contain—

(1) verification that the Administrator or such head of an agency is in compliance with this section; and

(2) a detailed list of the location of all tobacco product vending machines located in Federal buildings under the administration of the Administrator or such head of an agency.

(d)(1) No later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, after consultation with the Architect of the Capitol, shall promulgate regulations under the Senate and House of Representatives rule-making authority that prohibit the sale of tobacco products in vending machines in the Capitol Buildings.

(2) Such committees may designate areas where such prohibition shall not apply, if such area also prohibits the presence of minors.

(3) For the purpose of this section the term "Capitol Buildings" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined under section 16(a)(1) of the Act entitled "An Act to define the area of the United States Capitol Grounds, to regulate the use thereof, and for other pur-

poses", approved July 31, 1946 (40 U.S.C. 193m(1)).

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed as restricting the authority of the Administrator of General Services or the head of an agency to limit tobacco product use in or around any Federal building, except as provided under subsection (b)(1).

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 135:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 135, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 637. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON RESTRUCTURING THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) While the budget for the Internal Revenue Service (hereafter referred to as the "IRS") has risen from \$2.5 billion in fiscal year 1979 to \$7.3 billion in fiscal year 1996, tax returns processing has not become significantly faster, tax collection rates have not significantly increased, and the accuracy and timeliness of taxpayer assistance has not significantly improved.

(2) To date, the Tax Systems Modernization (TSM) program has cost the taxpayers \$2.5 billion, with an estimated cost of \$8 billion. Despite this investment, modernization efforts were recently described by the GAO as "chaotic" and "ad hoc".

(3) While the IRS maintains that TSM will increase efficiency and thus revenues, Congress has had to appropriate additional funds in recent years for compliance initiatives in order to increase tax revenues.

(4) Because TSM has not been implemented, the IRS continues to rely on paper returns, processing a total of 14 billion pieces of paper every tax season. This results in an extremely inefficient system.

(5) This lack of efficiency reduces the level of customer service and impedes the ability of the IRS to collect revenue.

(6) The present status of the IRS shows the need for the establishment of a Commission which will examine the organization of IRS and recommend actions to expedite the implementation of TSM and improve service to taxpayers.

(b) COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—To carry out the purposes of this section, there is established a National Commission on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service (in this section referred to as the "Commission").

(2) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of thirteen members, as follows:

(A) Five members appointed by the President, two from the executive branch of the Government, two from private life, and one from an organization that represents a substantial number of Internal Revenue Service employees.

(B) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, one from Members of the Senate and one from private life.

(C) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one from Members of the Senate and one from private life.

(D) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one from Members of the House of Representatives and one from private life.

(E) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, one from Members of the House of Representatives and one from private life.

The Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service shall be an ex officio member of the Commission.

(3) CHAIRMAN.—The Commission shall elect a Chairman from among its members.

(4) MEETING; QUORUM; VACANCIES.—After its initial meeting, the Commission shall meet upon the call of the Chairman or a majority of its

members. Seven members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(5) APPOINTMENT; INITIAL MEETING.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—It is the sense of the Congress that members of the Commission should be appointed not more than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—If, after 60 days from the date of the enactment of this section, seven or more members of the Commission have been appointed, members who have been appointed may meet and select a Chairman who thereafter shall have the authority to begin the operations of the Commission, including the hiring of staff.

(c) FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The functions of the Commission shall be—

(A) to conduct, for a period of not to exceed one year from the date of its first meeting, the review described in paragraph (2), and

(B) to submit to the Congress a final report of the results of the review, including recommendations for restructuring the IRS.

(2) REVIEW.—The Commission shall review—

(A) the present practices of the IRS, especially with respect to—

(i) its organizational structure;

(ii) its paper processing and return processing activities;

(iii) its infrastructure; and

(iv) the collection process;

(B) requirements for improvement in the following areas:

(i) making returns processing "paperless";

(ii) modernizing IRS operations;

(iii) improving the collections process without major personnel increases or increased funding;

(iv) improving taxpayer accounts management;

(v) improving the accuracy of information requested by taxpayers in order to file their returns; and

(vi) changing the culture of the IRS to make the organization more efficient, productive, and customer-oriented;

(C) whether the IRS could be replaced with a quasi-governmental agency with tangible incentives and internally managing its programs and activities and for modernizing its activities, and

(D) whether the IRS could perform other collection, information, and financial service functions of the Federal Government.

(d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—(A) The Commission or, on the authorization of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section—

(i) hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, administer such oaths, and

(ii) require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, as the Commission or such designated subcommittee or designated member may deem advisable.

(B) Subpoenas issued under subparagraph (A)(ii) may be issued under the signature of the Chairman of the Commission, the chairman of any designated subcommittee, or any designated member, and may be served by any person designated by such Chairman, subcommittee chairman, or member. The provisions of sections 102 through 104 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 192-194) shall apply in the case of any failure of any witness to comply with any subpoena or to testify when summoned under authority of this section.

(2) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this section.

(3) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission is authorized to secure directly from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality of the Government, information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics for the purposes of this section. Each such department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, establishment, or instrumentality shall, to the extent authorized by law, furnish such information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to the Commission, upon request made by the Chairman.

(4) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—(A) The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized on a nonreimbursable basis to provide the Commission with administrative services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support services for the performance of the Commission's functions.

(B) The Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission on a nonreimbursable basis such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(C) In addition to the assistance set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B), departments and agencies of the United States are authorized to provide to the Commission such services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support services as they may deem advisable and as may be authorized by law.

(5) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as departments and agencies of the United States.

(e) STAFF OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairman, in accordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission, may appoint and fix the compensation of a staff director and such other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its functions, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this subsection may exceed the equivalent of that payable to a person occupying a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code. Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employment without interruption.

(2) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Commission is authorized to procure the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a person occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(1) COMPENSATION.—(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), each member of the Commission may be compensated at not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which that member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Commission.

(B) Members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States or Members of Congress shall receive no additional pay on account of their service on the Commission.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(g) FINAL REPORT OF COMMISSION; TERMINATION.—

(1) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the Congress its final report, as described in subsection (c)(2).

(2) TERMINATION.—(A) The Commission, and all the authorities of this section, shall terminate on the date which is 60 days after the date on which a final report is required to be transmitted under paragraph (1).

(B) The Commission may use the 60-day period referred to in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of concluding its activities, including providing testimony to committees of Congress concerning its final report and disseminating that report.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Such sums as may be necessary are authorized to be appropriated for the activities of the Commission.

(i) APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, \$1,000,000 shall be available from fiscal year 1996 funds appropriated to the Internal Revenue Service, "Information systems" account, for the activities of the Commission, to remain available until expended.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 136:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 136, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 638. The Administrator of General Services shall, within six months of enactment of this Act, report to Congress on the feasibility of leasing agreements with State and local governments and private sponsors for the construction of border stations on the borders of the United States with Canada and Mexico whereby—

(1) lease payments shall not exceed 30 years for payment of the purchase price and interest;

(2) an agreement entered into under such provisions shall provide for the title to the property and facilities to vest in the United States on or before the expiration of the contract term, on fulfillment of the terms and conditions of the agreements.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 139:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 139, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the first section number named in said amendment, insert: 639; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment No. 140:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 140, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 640. Service performed during the period January 1, 1984, through December 31, 1986, which would, if performed after that period, be considered service as a law enforcement officer, as defined in section 8401(17) (A)(i)(II) and (B) of title 5, United States Code, shall be deemed service as a law enforcement officer for the purposes of chapter 84 of such title.

and, on page 78, line 23 of the House of Representatives engrossed bill, H.R. 2020, after "code", insert the following: "or Sec. 613 of this Act".

And the Senate agree to the same.

The committee of conference reports in disagreement amendment number 132.

- JIM LIGHTFOOT,
- FRANK R. WOLF,
- ERNEST ISTOOK,
- JACK KINGSTON,
- MIKE FORBES,
- BOB LIVINGSTON,

Managers on the Part of the House.

- RICHARD C. SHELBY,
- JAMES M. JEFFORDS,
- BEN NIGHTHORSE
- CAMPBELL,
- MARK O. HATFIELD,
- BOB KERREY,
- ROBERT C. BYRD,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2020) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, submit the following joint statement to the House and Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

The conference agreement on the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1996, incorporates some of the language and allocations set forth in House Report 104-183 and Senate Report 104-121. The language in these reports should be complied with unless specifically addressed in the accompanying statement of the managers.

REPROGRAMMING AND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS

The conferees agree with the Senate language stating requirements for agency requests for reprogramming and transfer actions.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 1. Inserts Senate language permitting \$2,950,000 for information technology modernization to remain available until expended and deletes House language limiting the availability.

Amendment No. 2. Appropriates \$105,929,000 instead of \$104,000,500 as proposed by the House, and \$110,929,000 as proposed by the Senate. Also includes up to \$500,000 in reimbursements to the District of Columbia for personnel costs incurred as a result of the closure of Pennsylvania Avenue, and amends Section 640 of P.L. 103-329.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

The House reduced funding for the Office of the Under Secretary of Law Enforcement by \$1,066,000; the Senate did not address this issue. The conferees agree that \$66,000 shall be reduced from the fiscal year 1996 request for the Office of the Under Secretary of Treasury for Law Enforcement. The conferees direct that no funds be reprogrammed into this Office without prior Congressional approval.

Of the amounts provided to the Office of the Under Secretary, the conferees direct that up to \$500,000 shall be transferred to the District of Columbia for its costs associated with the closing of Pennsylvania Avenue. This transfer is consistent with a provision recommended by the Senate which requires the Department of Treasury to reimburse the District of Columbia for these costs.

The conferees have also become aware of disparate personnel laws and regulations among the various Federal law enforcement agencies, as well as concerns that certain Treasury law enforcement bureaus have had difficulty disciplining employees because of overly restrictive personnel regulations. The conferees therefore direct the Office of the

Secretary to report back to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on options for changing the statutory and regulatory structure for Treasury law enforcement agencies to make recruiting, hiring, firing, promotions, demotions and lateral moves easier. The report should include options such as moving all Treasury law enforcement personnel to the excepted service and creating a broad-band pay structure for such employees. The report shall be due to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than March 1, 1996.

The conferees remain concerned with regard to the difficulties on the part of Treasury law enforcement bureaus in obtaining authorization from the Department of State in securing foreign posting for law enforcement officers. The conferees therefore request a report from the Department of Treasury to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that identifies where Treasury bureaus need to post agents by country, the types of cases that those agents would be assigned, the rationale for such assignments and the cost of such postings. The report should include options on reducing the cost of overseas postings to Treasury bureaus. The report shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than March 1, 1996.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT/
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The conferees withdraw the requirement included in the House report that the Mint and the BEP report directly to the Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Management/Chief Financial Officer. The conferees do agree with the House that the Treasurer shall provide only oversight and guidance for the Mint and BEP and should not monitor day-to-day operations.

UNDER SECRETARY FOR DOMESTIC FINANCE

The conferees note that a major Treasury Department issue which involves the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is the ongoing currency redesign initiative which is rightfully being tasked out from the Office of the Under Secretary of Treasury for Domestic Finance. Major Treasury Department issues which involve the United States Mint are ongoing discussions over the introduction of the one dollar coin as well as electronic forms of cash such as stored-value cards. These efforts are also rightfully tasked out from the Office of the Under Secretary of Treasury for Domestic Finance. However, both the BEP and the Mint are organizationally found under the Assistant Secretary for Management, not the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance. It appears that this is not the proper organizational location for these agencies which have much more in common with the Financial Management Service and the Bureau of Public Debt, both of which report to the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, than with Treasury organizations which report to the Assistant Secretary for Management.

In the interests of securing the most appropriate mechanism for these two organizations to receive proper policy oversight, the conferees recommend that the Secretary of Treasury review his organizational structure to ensure that the BEP and the U.S. Mint are reporting to the most appropriate Treasury official. The Secretary should report to the Committees only if he determines that there should be no change in the current organizational structure.

U.S. DUTCH TREATY PROTOCOL AMENDMENTS OF
1993

The conferees strongly agree with the House report language regarding the U.S. Dutch Treaty Protocol Amendments of 1993. While the Department has until October 31,

1995 to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the Committees have not received any indication that the Department is moving to permanently correct this problem. The conferees instruct the Department of Treasury to implement a permanent solution as stated in the House report.

PROPERTY ACCOUNTABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The conferees are encouraged by the widespread interest in moving property/asset accountability activities from a periodic physical audit and inventory process to an automated information based process. The interest in automated information management procedures, as expressed by various Department officials, and put forth in the National Performance Review, shows a significant potential for meaningful cost savings.

It is the belief of the conferees that the Department's property management function lends itself to, and could benefit from, commercial off-the-shelf information technology including software, computer-based laminate barcode printers, barcode readers and storage devices.

TREASURY BUILDINGS AND ANNEX REPAIR AND
RESTORATION

Amendment No. 3. Appropriates \$21,491,000 instead of no appropriation as proposed by the House and \$7,684,000 as proposed by the Senate. Included in this amount is \$7,684,000 for repairs and alteration requirements of the Treasury Building and Annex and \$13,807,000 for the Secret Service's new headquarters building.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 4. Appropriates \$29,319,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$30,067,000 as proposed by the Senate.

TREASURY FORFEITURE FUND

Amendment No. 5. Appropriates \$10,000,000 instead of eliminating this account as proposed by the House and \$15,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. Because of the importance of standardizing law enforcement communications and moving to narrow band communications equipment, the conferees agree that the Department may apply up to \$3,500,000 of the \$10,000,000 appropriated in the Treasury Forfeiture Fund to the Enforcement Federal Wireless Communications project. The conferees furthermore agree that resources within this account may be transferred to ATF for costs related to development of its canine explosives detection program.

FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 6. Restores and modifies House language authorizing FinCEN to offset the cost of travel for law enforcement personnel only.

Amendment No. 7. Appropriates \$22,198,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$20,273,000 as proposed by the House. Also includes House proposed language allowing FinCEN to procure up to \$500,000 for specialized automated data processing equipment without complying with procurement regulations and authorizing the use of its funds to procure personal services contracts.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 8. Deletes House provision permitting the Director of FLETC to offset part of the cost of travel expenses for certain individuals training at FLETC.

Amendment No. 9. Deletes House provision authorizing FLETC to obligate funds for site security and expansion of antiterrorism training facilities.

Amendment No. 10. Appropriates \$36,070,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$34,006,000 as proposed by the Senate.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
CENTER

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS,
AND RELATED EXPENSES

Amendment No. 11. Appropriates \$9,663,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$8,163,000 as proposed by the House. The conferees agree that the "related expenses" of this account may be used to pay for the cost of direct hire and contractor personnel entirely engaged in the execution of expansion and repair projects.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 12. Appropriates \$184,300,000 instead of \$181,837,000 as proposed by the House and \$186,070,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 13. Inserts Senate language permitting \$14,277,000 to remain available until expended for systems modernization requirements.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
(ATF)

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 14. Appropriates \$377,971,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$391,035,000 as proposed by the House.

The conferees have reduced the request by \$7,874,000 for program enhancements and \$5,000,000 for base equipment needs because the Congress funded these activities in the Fiscal Year 1995 Supplemental Appropriations Act. The conferees have increased the request by \$1,150,000 and five FTE's to reflect a transfer-back of the funding and positions which the Administration proposed to be funded in the "Foreign Law Enforcement" account. The conferees have denied the \$4,700,000 in ATF's base for the violence reduction alliance initiative. The conferees have reduced the account by \$2,800,000 for ATF's support role in the GREAT Program. This funding has been shifted to the Violent Crime Trust Fund along with continued funding for GREAT grants to existing communities. Finally, the conferees have reduced administrative overhead object classes by \$3,690,000 to be applied at the discretion of the Director. The reductions shall be applied to object classes 21.0, 22.0, 23.3, 24.0, 25.0, 26.0, and 31.0. The reduction in the equipment activity should be restored to ATF's base in fiscal year 1997. Funding for counterterrorism initiatives has been included in the "Violent Crime Trust Fund" account.

Amendment No. 15. Restores and modifies House language prohibiting ATF from obligating funds for administrative expenses or compensation or for any employee to amend the definition of "curios or relics" as published in the Code of Federal Regulations or remove items from ATF publication 5300.11 as it existed on January 1, 1994.

EXPLOSIVES DETECTION PROGRAM

The conferees understand that ATF has developed a method of training canines to detect explosive and fire accelerants that is more accurate and reliable than techniques employed elsewhere. This success has resulted in urgent requests by foreign governments such as Israel, Egypt and Greece for technical assistance in establishing their own programs in the ATF style. The conferees are concerned, however, that, although other nations have benefited from this technique, it has not been widely disseminated in the United States.

The conferees therefore direct ATF to develop a formal program to train explosives and accelerant detection canines and handlers from local, state and Federal agencies.

Treasury Asset Forfeiture funds may be used for positions and capital improvements at the training facility currently being used in Front Royal, Virginia.

The conferees encourage all Federal agencies with a need for explosives and accelerant detection capabilities to consider using ATF's canine explosives and accelerant detection program.

EXPLOSIVES DESENSITIZATION

The conferees are aware of an Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) recommendation that Naval Surface Weapons Center Indian Head play a major role in any Ammonium Nitrate desensitization initiatives. The OTA report states that Indian Head has the highest concentration of explosives experts in the world, and that Indian Head is running the only insensitive munitions program in the U.S., with extensive experience in Ammonium Nitrate mixtures. In addition, the ATF has worked with the International Fertilizer Development Center. The conferees recommend that ATF continue to strongly involve Indian Head and the Center in any desensitization program.

FIRE RESEARCH

The conferees would also like to recognize the accomplishments in fire research conducted by the University of Maryland. The conferees are aware that ATF and the University of Maryland have in the past shared expertise and knowledge. Considering the important work yet to be done in the area of fire science and arson investigation, the conferees encourage the continuation and expansion of this partnership.

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 16. Appropriates \$1,387,153,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$1,392,429,000 as proposed by the House. The conferees deny the President's request to transfer \$8,280,000 to foreign law enforcement and assumes savings of \$2,677,000 from administrative overhead.

WESTERN HEMISPHERIC TRADE

The conferees have included funding for review of trade issues to be equally divided between the Center for Study of Western Hemispheric Trade in Texas and the Northern Plains and Rockies Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade in Montana at no more than half the level provided in 1995.

Amendment No. 17. Restores House language and inserts Senate language requiring the Commissioner to designate a single individual to be port director of all government activities at two ports of entry and earmarks \$750,000 for additional part-time and temporary positions in the Honolulu Customs District.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION PROGRAMS

Amendment No. 18. Appropriates \$64,843,000 instead of \$60,993,000 as proposed by the House and \$68,543,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 19. Deletes House language allowing \$5,644,000 to remain available until expended.

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

CURRENCY REDESIGN EFFORT

The conferees do not agree with the House language directing that the U.S. Treasurer have full operational control over all aspects of the public relations effort for currency redesign. The conferees agree that the currency redesign effort should remain under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Under Secretary of Treasury for Domestic Finance.

The conferees further agree that transferring or detailing full time equivalents and/or

funding from any Treasury bureau or department to the Office of the Treasurer represents an augmentation of appropriations for Departmental Offices and should not be pursued without prior Congressional approval.

DISTINCTIVE PAPER FOR CURRENCY

The conferees agree that the House and Senate report language concerning the procurement of distinctive paper for the printing of currency is complimentary and is therefore supported by the conferees. Additionally, the conferees agree that none of the report language shall contradict the law which states that all requirements for the domestic manufacture of paper shall not apply if the Secretary of the Treasury determines that no domestic manufacturer of distinctive paper for currency or securities exists.

U.S. MINT PUBLIC ENTERPRISE FUND

Both the House and the Senate Committees on Appropriations included language establishing the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund. The Senate language included minor changes to the House proposed language to which the conferees agree. The conferees agree with language included in the House report requiring the Director of the U.S. Mint and the Secretary of Treasury to file certain financial statements and reports.

The conferees further agree that the Director shall ensure that the revenues and expenses from the circulating coinage and numismatic operations are recorded separately. Additionally, receipts from coinage operations shall not be used to fund numismatic operations, nor shall receipts from numismatic operations be used to fund circulating coinage operations.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

PROCESSING, ASSISTANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

Amendment No. 20. Appropriates \$1,723,764,000 instead of \$1,682,742,000 as proposed by the House and \$1,767,309,000 as proposed by the Senate.

IRS REGULATIONS AFFECTING INTERCITY BUS FUEL EXCISE TAX REFUNDS

The conferees are concerned that many intercity bus companies are not receiving Federal diesel fuel excise tax refunds that are due to them. The IRS regulation regards the dyeing of diesel fuel to prevent illegal use of tax-free diesel fuel. Intercity buses are allowed to use either tax-free and remit the appropriate excise tax or use fully taxed fuel and seek an appropriate refund.

While the conferees understand the rationale for this regulation, they are concerned that it may be impeding services provided by intercity bus companies to rural areas, the elderly, the young and the poor. The conferees expect the IRS to work with the appropriate Congressional committees to resolve this serious problem expeditiously.

ELECTRONIC FILING

The conferees fully support the goals accompanying Tax Systems Modernization (TSM) as outlined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). However, the conferees seek a better understanding of actions taken by the IRS during the most recent tax season that have caused a dramatic decline in electronic filing, the cornerstone of TSM. The conferees request the IRS to include in the TSM business plan, the specific steps the IRS, in cooperation with the electronic filing industry, intends to take to maintain and increase the current levels of electronic filing.

The conferees believe that the IRS has made significant strides in deterring and detecting fraud, but make the observation that many hardworking, honest taxpayers have been inconvenienced due to last filing season's changes. Further, the conferees believe

that the IRS should work constructively with all participants (Congress, electronic filing industry, and taxpayers) who have a stake in electronic filing to ensure that the problems experienced during the most recent tax season will not be repeated.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

TAX LAW ENFORCEMENT

Amendment No. 21. Appropriates \$4,097,294,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$4,254,476,000 as proposed by the House.

TAX COMPLIANCE INITIATIVE

In fiscal year 1995, Congress provided a total of \$4,385,459,000 for Tax Law Enforcement which was comprised of a base program of \$3,980,459,000 and \$405,000,000 for the first installment of a new five year, \$2,000,000,000 tax compliance initiative. In fiscal year 1996, the Administration requested a total of \$4,524,351,000 for Tax Law Enforcement which is comprised of a base program of \$4,119,351,000 and the second installment of \$405,000,000 for the tax compliance initiative. The conferees have appropriated \$4,097,294,000 for the base program, a three percent increase over the 1995 level and .5 percent less than the request, but due to funding constraints could not provide the second installment of \$405,000,000 for the tax compliance initiative. However, the conferees agree that within the funds available IRS should aggressively pursue tax compliance.

The conferees do not believe that this action sends a signal that voluntary compliance is no longer a priority or that the action rewards tax cheats. The conferees are dedicated to ensuring the effective and efficient collection of taxes and strongly agree that IRS should pursue those who willfully and purposefully provide erroneous information to the IRS. The fact that overall IRS funding provided by the conference agreement represents 65 percent of the total discretionary allocation available to the conferees is a testament to this dedication.

Amendment No. 22. Restores and modifies House language authorizing \$13,000,000 for a private debt collection initiative.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Amendment No. 23. Appropriates \$1,527,154,000 instead of \$1,571,616,000 as proposed by the House and \$1,442,605,000 as proposed by the Senate and places a "floor" of \$695,000,000 on the expenditures for Tax Systems Modernization (TSM), which is \$26,000,000 less than the House minimum for TSM and \$25,000,000 more than the Senate minimum for TSM.

Amendment No. 24. Deletes House language and modifies Senate language on Tax Systems Modernization.

TAX SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION

The conferees have also included legislative language which "fences" \$100,000,000 of the funds appropriated for tax systems modernization until the Secretary of the Treasury reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and the Senate. The report shall use explicit decision criteria to identify, evaluate, and prioritize all systems investments planned for fiscal year 1996; include a schedule for successfully mitigating deficiencies identified by the General Accounting Office (GAO) in its April 1995 report to the Committees; establish a schedule for development and implementation of all projects included in the tax systems modernization program; and, provide a plan to expand the utilization of external, not Internal Revenue Service (IRS), expertise for systems development and integration.

The conferees direct GAO to review the IRS report, when completed, to ensure that,

in fact, deficiencies identified by GAO have been corrected. GAO shall provide an independent assessment of the actions taken by IRS to address these deficiencies in a report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by no later than April 1, 1996. Should the IRS report not be available prior to that time, the conferees direct the GAO to provide status reports to the Committees on IRS corrective actions and provide such assessment within 30 days of receipt of the IRS report.

The IRS has been told by a number of sources, including the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the GAO, and the National Academy of Sciences that, within the IRS, there is not the level of expertise required for proper development and implementation of TSM. The House and the Senate Appropriations Committees have urged IRS to move toward greater use of the contractor community and its expertise in the area of systems development and total program integration. Thus far, IRS has been reluctant to pursue this approach, relying instead on internal organizational structures. The conferees have therefore included language which requires the IRS to develop a plan to expand the utilization of contractor expertise for systems development and total program integration. As stated by the Senate, the IRS is a revenue collection agency, not an automation design company and should use contractor resources more effectively.

Furthermore, the conferees believe that the Secretary of the Treasury should continue to exercise direct oversight control of the management of TSM, providing guidance and assistance when necessary.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—INTERNAL
REVENUE SERVICE

Amendment No. 25. Deletes House language prohibiting the transfer of funds from the tax law enforcement account in fiscal year 1996.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 26. Appropriates \$531,944,000 instead of \$542,461,000 as proposed by the House and \$534,502,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees deny funding of \$2,300,000 for mainframe computer replacement and financial systems enhancements, deny the transfer of \$3,100,000 to Foreign Law Enforcement, and assume administrative overhead savings of \$7,646,000, as proposed by the Senate. The conferees include \$16,295,000 to restore base funding requirements which have eroded over the past several years. The conferees fund \$13,807,000 associated with the new headquarters building in a separate account and \$3,278,000 in protection costs associated with the upcoming Summer Olympics in the Violent Crime Trust Fund account.

VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Amendment No. 27. Appropriates \$69,314,000 instead of \$51,686,000 as proposed by the House and \$68,300,000 as proposed by the Senate. This includes \$21,010,000 for the ATF, of which \$3,100,000 shall be available for the further development of ballistics imaging technologies as part of the "CEASEFIRE" program, \$3,500,000 shall be available for administering the GREAT program, and the remaining \$14,410,000 shall be available to continue funding for recent expansions in the arson and explosives detection and investigation program. The conferees also provide \$25,690,000 for the U.S. Customs Service's "Operation Hardline" to bolster drug law enforcement efforts at the U.S.-Mexico border, \$21,600,000 for the United States Secret Service, and \$1,014,000 for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Of the \$21,600,000 provided to the Secret Service, the conferees include \$5,000,000 for

anti-counterfeiting efforts, \$1,600,000 for missing and exploited children, \$400,000 for the Treasury Recipient Income Verification Program and \$3,278,000 for the upcoming Summer Olympics and the remaining funds for other Secret Service activities.

Amendment No. 28. Appropriates \$7,200,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$12,200,000 as proposed by the House.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE
TREASURY

Amendment No. 29. Deletes House language authorizing Treasury to transfer up to 2 percent between appropriations accounts with the advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

Amendment No. 30. Deletes Senate language exempting Customs personnel funded through reimbursement from the Puerto Rico Trust Fund from government-wide work force reductions.

Amendment No. 31. Inserts Senate language authorizing the Treasury Department to use its aircraft to assist Federal agencies in carrying out emergency law enforcement support to protect human life, property, public health or safety.

Amendment No. 32. Deletes Senate language authorizing the expenditure of up to \$500,000 to reimburse the District of Columbia for personnel costs incurred as a result of the closure of Pennsylvania Avenue.

TITLE II—U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

FEDERAL POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES

The conferees strongly believe that the Federal postal employees who volunteered to fight the recent fires on Long Island, NY, from August 21 to September 6, 1995 should be paid their equivalent salaries for the time that they devoted to fighting fires. The Postal Service has previously indicated the employees must take vacation time or unpaid leave, but the conferees believe that the Presidential declaration of a national disaster in this case warrants, and the Postmaster General concurs, that all postal workers who were engaged as volunteer firefighters in the Long Island fires will be "held harmless," not lose vacation or personal time, and be paid the equivalent of their salaries for their time donated to the disaster.

TITLE III—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 33. Appropriates \$39,459,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$38,131,000 as proposed by the Senate.

EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

OPERATING EXPENSES

Amendment No. 34. Appropriates \$7,827,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$7,522,000 as proposed by the House.

EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WHITE HOUSE REPAIR AND RESTORATION

Amendment No. 35. Inserts Senate language establishing an appropriation of \$2,200,000 to fund repairs and restoration activities at the White House.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PRESIDENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 36. Appropriates \$3,280,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$3,175,000 as proposed by the House.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 37. Appropriates \$3,180,000 instead of eliminating this account as proposed by the House and \$3,439,000 as proposed by the Senate.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY FORMULATION

The conferees have restored funding for the Council of Economic Advisers in the amount

of \$3,180,000 but remain concerned over the duplication of effort within the Executive Office of the President as it relates to advising the President on economic policy. The conferees are also concerned that the specific functions and responsibilities of the Council are not ones which necessarily require a full time Federal employment level of 35 and annual operating costs of \$3.5 million. The conferees direct CEA to submit, as part of its fiscal year 1997 budget request, a report on the current organizational structure of economic advice to the President including an assessment of the roles of the Office of Management and Budget and the National Economic Council as they relate to the formulation, coordination, and implementation of national economic policy. This report should also include a specific plan for streamlining economic advice to the President and structuring a full time volunteer Council of Economic Advisers using, for instance, academicians, fellows, and other individuals to provide independent economic advice to the President.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 38. Appropriates \$6,648,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$6,459,000 as proposed by the House.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 39. Appropriates \$25,736,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$25,560,000 as proposed by the Senate.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 40. Appropriates \$55,573,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$55,426,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 41. Deletes a provision inserted by the Senate prohibiting the obligation of fiscal year 1996 funds by OMB until a report on longer-term budgeting has been submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. The conferees did not include the Senate provision since the information required from OMB on this subject was provided to the Committees prior to conference action.

LONG-TERM BUDGETING

The first and most significant recommendation endorsed by a majority of the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform was that the Federal government make major spending and tax decisions with reference to a longer time period than the traditional five year budget window. As a result, the Senate Committee on Appropriations requested OMB to provide a 30-year analysis of the costs of the major entitlement programs. That information was submitted to the Committee in a letter dated, September 12, 1995. The conferees have decided to print that letter and the accompanying document in the statement of managers so that the American public can be aware of the long-range costs facing the country as a result of entitlement programs. That information follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC, September 12, 1995.

Hon. J. ROBERT KERREY,

*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR KERREY: In response to your interest in the long-range outlook for the Federal budget, enclosed is a table that lists long-range baseline projections. These projections extend the baseline estimates published in the Administration's Mid-Session Review of the 1996 Budget for a period of thirty years.

These projections use the best methodology and data available. However, it is very important to recognize the large uncertainties inherent in making projections of receipts and outlays this far into the future. The projections are obviously highly sensitive to the underlying economic and demographic assumptions. In addition, they rely on a simplified model of the budget. Receipts projections are based on a simplified derivation of tax bases implied by the underlying economic assumptions. Discretionary budget

authority and outlays follow the caps specified in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 through FY 1998 and rise at the rate of inflation thereafter. Outlays for major entitlement programs are projected using a combination of underlying economic assumptions, available actuarial data and an analysis of recent trends.

It is also important to recognize that all of the projections in the enclosure are baseline estimates. They do not reflect the policies in the President's balanced budget plan or in

the Congressional Budget Resolution. Instead, they only project the effects of current laws assuming the policies underlying those laws are not changed.

I hope this information is helpful to you and I look forward to working with you to address both the short- and long-term fiscal problems our nation faces.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Rivlin,
Director.

LONG-RANGE BASELINE PROJECTIONS

[In billions of dollars]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Baseline totals:										
Receipts	1,418	1,485	1,561	1,644	1,737	1,831	1,928	2,028	2,133	2,251
Outlays	1,603	1,682	1,756	1,846	1,946	2,037	2,143	2,250	2,368	2,499
Deficit (-)	-185	-197	-194	-202	-208	-206	-216	-222	-235	-248
Memorandum:										
Discretionary budget authority	522	535	542	558	576	594	612	631	650	671
Trust fund surplus/deficit (-): ¹										
OASDI ²	75	81	87	92	98	105	112	120	127	135
HI/SMI	6	-4	-9	-16	-23	-31	-40	-49	-59	-70
Civil service retirement	27	27	28	29	32	33	34	35	36	36
Military retirement	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	-1	-2	-2

¹Based on most recent actuarial reports.

²Figures are for calendar years.

LONG-RANGE BASELINE PROJECTIONS

[In billions of dollars]

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Baseline totals:										
Receipts	2,363	2,485	2,611	2,742	2,878	3,020	3,167	3,320	3,477	3,639
Outlays	2,627	2,763	2,908	3,066	3,235	3,413	3,602	3,806	4,026	4,264
Deficit (-)	-264	-278	-298	-324	-357	-393	-435	-487	-549	-625
Memorandum:										
Discretionary budget authority	691	713	735	758	781	805	830	856	883	910
Trust fund surplus/deficit (-): ¹										
OASDI ²	144	152	157	159	162	164	161	154	143	128
HI/SMI	-83	-97	-111	-128	-148	-170	-196	-227	-261	-299
Civil service retirement	37	37	38	38	39	39	40	40	40	41
Military	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-8	-9	-9	-5

¹Based on most recent actuarial reports.

²Figures are for calendar years.

LONG-RANGE BASELINE PROJECTIONS

[In billions of dollars]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baseline totals:										
Receipts	3,807	3,985	4,167	4,355	4,552	4,755	4,967	5,188	5,413	5,650
Outlays	4,511	4,772	5,053	5,353	5,675	6,017	6,383	6,775	7,194	7,644
Deficit (-)	-704	-787	-886	-998	-1,123	-1,261	-1,416	-1,587	-1,782	-1,995
Memorandum:										
Discretionary budget authority	938	967	997	1,028	1,060	1,093	1,127	1,162	1,198	1,235
Trust fund surplus/deficit (-): ¹										
OASDI ²	108	81	49	12	-30	-78	-132	-193	-260	-334
HI/SMI	-341	-389	-444	-505	-571	-644	-727	-821	-924	-1,037
Civil service retirement	42	43	44	45	46	47	49	50	52	54
Military retirement	8	11	41	46	52	59	66	74	82	92

¹Based on most recent actuarial reports.

²Figures are for calendar years.

PRIVATIZATION OF NONPERFORMING FEDERAL LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEES

The conferees are aware that some Federal agencies are exploring the privatization of Federal loan and loan guarantees. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently held an auction of 177 multifamily loans that had defaulted on mortgage insurance written by HUD. The unpaid amount of these defaulted loans was more than \$900,000,000, but because of the Government's poor collection history, the loans were valued by OMB as worth only \$286,000,000 if they continued to be held by the Government. However, these same loans were sold to private investors for \$710,000,000. This one transaction alone reduced the deficit by \$424,000,000.

The private sector was, in this case, willing to pay more than twice the value of these loans to the Government because there is a huge productivity gap between the Government and private sector (technology, infrastructure and expertise in managing bad

loans, and profit motive). In short, the private sector has the technology, capacity, ability and motivation to produce more value than the Government ever could.

The conferees believe that more consideration should be given to the sale of loans and loan guarantees held not only by HUD, but by all Federal agencies that provide credit programs. The Federal Government holds huge amount of loans and loan guarantees that are worth more in the hands of the private sector. The estimated amounts are \$800,000,000 of loan guarantees and \$200,000,000 in loans.

Using conservative estimates, it may be that between \$20,000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000 could be realized if much of the Federal credit program was to be turned over to the private sector. However, it is impossible to ascertain the value of such an effort because many of the agencies are unaware of the value imbedded in their credit programs and how such transfers might be achieved.

Therefore, the conferees direct the Office of Management and Budget to direct, and coordinate with, the Federal agencies involved in credit programs to evaluate the value of their credit programs, including the cost of annual administrative expenses and develop a plan for the privatization of such credit programs. The Director of OMB shall be responsible for assuring the implementation of this directive and coordinating the activities of all Federal agencies hereunder.

Specifically, OMB is directed to have the various agencies provide the following information: for each financing account and for each liquidating account, as those terms are defined in sections 502(7) and 502(8) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990; the cumulative balance of direct loans outstanding, the estimated net present value of such direct loans, the annual administrative expenses (the portion of salaries and expenses that are directly related to such loans outstanding), and the estimated net proceeds that would be received if such direct loans

were sold; the cumulative balance of guaranteed loans outstanding, the estimated net present value of such loan guarantees, the annual administrative expenses (the portion of salaries and expenses that are directly related to such guaranteed loans outstanding), and the estimated net proceeds that would be received if such loan guarantees were sold; and the cumulative balance of defaulted loans that were previously guaranteed and have resulted in loans receivable, the estimated net present value of such loan assets, the annual administrative expenses (the portion of salaries and expenses that are directly related to such loan assets), and the estimated net proceeds that would be received if such direct loans were sold.

On or before March 31, 1996, OMB shall require each Federal agency that makes or has made direct loans or loan guarantees, as those terms are defined in sections 502(1) and 502(2) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, to prepare and issue a report to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office and the chairmen of the appropriate committees of the House and Senate and a detailed plan containing the agency's proposed schedule, by fiscal year, and providing for the transfer to the private sector the sale, by September 30, 2002, of all direct loans, loan guarantees and defaulted loans that were previously guaranteed and have resulted in loans receivable to the extent such transfer would result in a net profit to the Treasury. Such schedule shall be updated annually on the first day of each successive fiscal year, and shall include a detailed plan for the sale of all direct loans, loan guarantees and defaulted loans that were previously guaranteed that are added to the agency's financing accounts subsequent to October 1, 1995.

STREAMLINING THE EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE PROCESS

The conferees note that there are a number of Federal agencies involved in settling employee grievances: the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, and the Office of Personnel Management. The conferees believe that there are opportunities to streamline this somewhat unwieldy structure and therefore direct the Administration to develop a legislative proposal to restructure all Federal employee adjudicatory functions and submit this plan to Congress no later than February 1, 1996.

INFORMATION SECURITY OVERSIGHT OFFICE

Amendment No. 42. Deletes Senate language appropriating \$1,482,000 for salaries and expenses under the Executive Office of the President.

The original President's 1996 budget request included \$1,482,000 for a new Independent Agency titled "Information Security Oversight Office". A subsequent budget amendment eliminated the request for an Independent Agency and moved the information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), and \$1,482,000, to the National Archives and Records Administration. The House eliminated funding, within the National Archives, for the ISOO and the Senate funded it as a separate agency under the Executive Office of the President at a level of \$1,482,000.

The conferees agree that as a separate agency, ISOO shall cease to exist and have eliminated the funding recommended by the Senate. The conferees have provided funding for ISOO in the National Archives and Records Administration appropriation.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 43. Restores and modifies funding and language inserted by the House and stricken by the Senate. The conferees have provided \$23,500,000 for Office of National Drug Control Policy activities in fiscal year 1996. Included in this amount is \$7,500,000 for salaries and expenses of the Office and \$16,000,000 for the research and development projects of the Counter-Drug Technology Assessment Center (CTAC). Of the amounts appropriated to CTAC, \$600,000 is for automated data processing improvements at the Drug Enforcement Administration's El Paso Intelligence Center.

CALIFORNIA GUNLINK PROJECT

The conferees direct the Office of National Drug Control Policy to use a portion of the \$3,100,000 made available under the fiscal year 1995 Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act to purchase no more than six ballistics imaging machines for the California Gunlink project and use remaining resources to develop networking capabilities among the different models of ballistics imaging systems.

MODEL STATE DRUG LAWS

The conferees direct the Office of National Drug Control Policy to apply \$1,000,000 for the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws for conferences to be held by Governors to review model state drug laws as proposed by the President's Commission on Model State Drug Laws.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION PROJECT

The conferees urge the Chief Scientist to consider a collaborative effort, designed by the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University, to implement a demonstration project to explore the causes and treatments of drug and alcohol addiction, in collaboration with Albert Einstein Medical Center of Philadelphia.

Amendment No. 44. Deletes language and funding inserted by the Senate for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. While the conferees have agreed to delete the bill language proposed by the Senate, the conferees remain concerned about the trends of drug abuse in this country and the effectiveness of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to deal with this continuing problem. Despite an investment of over \$86 billion in Federal anti-drug programs since Fiscal Year 1988, the number of hardcore drug users has remained constant at 2.7 million. More disturbing are recent surveys which indicate that since 1992 there has been an increase in the use of illicit drugs amongst our nation's youth and a disturbing change in attitudes toward the acceptability of drug use.

Despite significant increases in Federal spending there has been a lack of a clear and loud voice from the Administration in speaking out on drug abuse. If the Federal Government is going to continue to provide billions of dollars to combat illicit drug trafficking and abuse then it must ensure that the problem receives the highest level of attention at the Cabinet level, and private sector representatives participate in policy development and direction. Therefore, the conferees strongly urge the President to convene a Cabinet Council, involving all Cabinet members whose departments play a role in drug control policy, to meet on a regular basis to discuss and formulate strategies to effectively reduce drug abuse in this country. In addition, the conferees strongly urge the President to convene a bipartisan conference on drug control, inviting representatives from prevention, law enforcement, education, treatment, business leadership, media and parent organizations to participate in the formulation of a strategy to re-

duce drug abuse. The conferees expect the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to report to the Committees on Appropriations by no later than January 15, 1996, on the progress being made in this regard.

FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM

Amendment No. 45. Deletes Housing language appropriating \$104,000,000 for the HIDTA program.

Amendment No. 46. Appropriates \$103,000,000 for the HIDTA program instead of \$104,000,000, as proposed in Amendment No. 45 and \$110,000,000 as proposed by the Senate, including \$55,000,000 for state and local governments and \$48,000,000 for Federal agencies. The conferees direct that these reductions in the Federal share be taken proportionately from all the existing HIDTAs.

TITLE IV—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (ACIR) SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 47. Appropriates \$784,000 instead of \$334,000 as proposed by the Senate and no appropriation as proposed by the House and includes language directing the orderly termination of ACIR.

The conferees have appropriated a total of \$784,000 for ACIR: \$334,000 to conduct a study on unfunded mandates and \$450,000 for costs associated with the termination of the agency.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES (ACUS)

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 48. Appropriates \$600,000 instead of no appropriation as proposed by the House and \$1,800,000 as proposed by the Senate.

TERMINATIONS COSTS

The conferees have agreed to provide a total of \$600,000 for the orderly termination of operations at ACUS which shall begin on October 1, 1995, and be completed no later than February 1, 1996. The conferees agree that this agency shall cease to exist and the appropriation of \$600,000 shall be used only to close down operations at ACUS.

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 49. Appropriates \$1,800,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$1,682,000 as proposed by the House.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (FEC)

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 50. Appropriates \$26,521,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$28,517,000 as proposed by the Senate and earmarks \$1,500,000 for internal automated data processing systems.

Amendment No. 51. Restores House language prohibiting the use of funds by FEC until a report is submitted to the Committees on Appropriations on a systems requirements analysis on the development of an ADP system.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 52. Appropriates \$20,542,000 instead of \$19,742,000 as proposed by the House and \$21,398,000 as proposed by the Senate.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

FEDERAL BUILDINGS FUND

LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF REVENUE

Amendment No. 53. Inserts Senate language inserting an account heading.

Amendment No. 54. Inserts Senate language allowing an appropriation into the Federal Buildings fund (FBF).

Amendment No. 55. Inserts Senate language appropriating \$86,000,000.

Amendment No. 56. Limits obligation from the FBF to \$5,066,149,000 instead of \$5,066,822,000 as proposed by the House and \$5,086,019,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 57. Makes available \$545,002,000 for new construction of Federal buildings instead of \$367,777,000 as proposed by the House and \$573,872,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 58. Inserts and modifies Senate language which provides funding for the construction of certain Federal buildings and facilities.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO U.S. COURTHOUSE

The fiscal year 1996 request includes \$17,436,000 for the U.S. Courthouse in Youngstown, Ohio. The conferees have not provided funds for the construction of this project in fiscal year 1996 because the General Services Administration (GSA) has advised the conferees that the contract for this project cannot be awarded in fiscal year 1996. Because of the urgent need of the courts in Youngstown, the conferees instruct GSA to continue preliminary design work on this project in fiscal year 1996 and request funds in fiscal year 1997 for the construction of this new courthouse project. The conferees further note that they will do their best to fund this project as one of the highest priorities in fiscal year 1997.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON COURTHOUSE

The conference agreement provides \$5,600,000 to continue design work on the new courthouse in Seattle, Washington. Should this amount be insufficient to fully fund the design efforts for this facility, the conferees encourage the GSA to reprogram funds from other available resources.

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK COURTHOUSE

The conferees are aware of the "space emergency" facing the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York. GSA has proposed two projects to accommodate the space requirements of the Brooklyn Courthouse acquisition and renovation of the adjacent General Post Office Building and demolition of the Federal building portion of the Celler complex, followed by construction of a new court annex on that site. Earlier Congresses have appropriated funds for the initial phases of his project. The House bill contained \$49,400,000 to partially fund the renovation of the General Post Office Building. The Senate bill contained no funding because GSA had notified the Committee that it would not be able to expend any additional funds in fiscal year 1996. The conferees support continuation of this project and urge GSA to submit a prospectus in fiscal year 1997 to move to the next phase.

RAPTOR RESEARCH CENTER

The conferees support the GSA's efforts to consolidate the Raptor Research Center at Boise State University in a building donated to the University. It is the understanding of the conferees that GSA's renovation costs of the donated building will be far less than leasing new space.

TELECOMMUTING CENTERS

Of the funds made available by this Act for telecommuting centers in northern Virginia, the conferees urge GSA to establish at least one center at a suitable location in western Fairfax County, one in Loudoun County, and one in eastern Prince William County, Virginia.

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, PARKING

The conferees agree that given the lack of available parking at the newly constructed Warren B. Rudman Federal Courthouse in

Concord, N.H., and an employees' reliance upon auto transportation, a parking space availability problem will undoubtedly arise. Accordingly, the conferees believe that should the City of Concord build a parking facility to accommodate the vehicles of 400 people, (including 300 federal employees, as well as various citizens and court officials), the federal government should use this new parking facility for its employees' benefit to the maximum extent possible.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, COURTHOUSE

The conferees are aware of the need for a new courthouse in Las Vegas, Nevada. Land for the site for this project will be donated to the Federal government by the City of Las Vegas at no cost. The conferees have not provided funds for the construction of this project in fiscal year 1996 because the General Services Administration has advised the conferees that the contract for this project cannot be awarded until June 1997. Because of the urgent need of the courts in Nevada, the conferees instruct GSA to continue preliminary design work on this project in fiscal year 1996 and request funds in fiscal year 1997 for the construction of this new courthouse project. The conferees further note that they will do their best to fund this project as one of the highest priorities in fiscal year 1997.

FDA CONSOLIDATION

The conferees request GSA study the White Oak, Maryland site for the consolidation of FDA facilities.

Amendment No. 59. Restores House language on Flexiplace Telecommuting Centers and inserts Senate language which rescinds \$55,000,000 from the Southeast Federal Center in Washington, D.C.

Amendment No. 60. Makes available \$637,000,000 for repairs and alterations instead of \$713,086,000 as proposed by the House and \$627,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 61. Inserts Senate language authorizing unobligated balances in the repairs and alterations account to be used for implementing security improvements at Federal buildings, upon compliance with reprogramming guidelines of the Committees on Appropriations.

Amendment No. 62. Inserts and modifies Senate language providing funding for repairs and alterations of certain Federal buildings and facilities.

Amendment No. 63. Makes available \$304,757,000 for basic repairs and alterations as proposed by the Senate instead of \$307,278,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 64. Restores House language earmarking \$100,000 for the advanced design for the renovation of the national veterinary science laboratory and a biocontainment facility.

Amendment No. 65. Makes available \$2,326,200,000 for rental of space instead of \$2,341,100,000 as proposed by the House and \$2,327,200,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 66. Makes available \$1,302,551,000 for building operations as proposed by the Senate instead of \$1,389,463,000 as proposed by the House. Also inserts Senate language earmarking \$1,000,000 for support for the Xth Paralympiad.

Amendment No. 67. Restores and modifies House language moving the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation to the General Services Administration (GSA).

Amendment No. 68. Limits obligations from the Federal Buildings Fund to \$5,066,149,000 instead of \$5,066,822,000 as proposed by the House and \$5,086,019,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 69. Inserts and modifies language proposed by the Senate which provides funds for GSA policy and operations and appropriates \$119,091,000 instead of \$113,827,000 as proposed by the Senate and \$111,629,000 as proposed by the House.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OPERATING EXPENSES

The Administration requested that the traditional single account for the Policy and Operations of the General Services Administration (GSA) be separated into two appropriations. The House agreed with this approach and funded the Policy Oversight appropriation at \$62,499,000 and the Operating Expenses appropriation at \$49,130,000. The Senate retained that traditional approach and funded both of these organizations in one appropriation of \$113,827,000.

The conferees agree with the Senate position to provide funding for Policy and Operations within the Operating Expenses appropriation and have funded this appropriation at \$119,091,000. However, the conferees direct GSA to ensure separate and distinct offices for Policy/Oversight and Operations. The Policy and Oversight office should be responsible for developing and overseeing government-wide policy while the Operations office should carry out GSA's other mission of providing services.

The conference agreement should not prejudice any decision by the Office of Management and Budget to once again submit a budget request for GSA which provides separate appropriations for Policy and Operations. The conferees agree with the House position that the goal of developing government-wide policy direction could be at odds with GSA's other goal of increasing its operational base and the OMB should consider future budgets which would provide a more definitive separation of these two goals.

Within the \$119,091,000 appropriated for GSA, funds shall be available for the ongoing ICN project, as directed by the House.

The conferees have also included funds for the CLASS project in Lincoln, Nebraska, a telecommunications demonstration project for an on-line accredited education program leading to a high school diploma or its equivalent.

REVIEW OF FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULES

The Senate included language which directed the General Services Administration (GSA) to postpone rules to implement section 1555 of the Federal Acquisition and Streamlining Act (FASA) until a comprehensive analysis of the effect of such rules has been completed. The House did not address this issue.

The conferees agree that considerable concern has been raised by some private sector vendors on the effect of the implementation of section 1555 of FASA, and believe that additional study should be undertaken before implementation of some of the more controversial schedules. Therefore, the conferees direct that the GSA enforce a one-year moratorium on the implementation of section 1555 of FASA for certain more controversial schedules until final action on this matter is taken by the appropriate Congressional committees.

CHILD CARE CENTERS

On June 28, 1995, the U.S. Department of Justice submitted to Congress its report, "Vulnerability Assessment of Federal Facilities". This document establishes minimum security standards for Federal buildings. Within these standards, the conferees believe the General Services Administration (GSA) should review the placement of child care centers in Federal buildings. The conferees direct the Administrator of GSA to provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations an evaluation of future plans to ensure the safety of child care centers within the standards, as established.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Amendment No. 70. Appropriates \$33,274,000 instead of \$32,549,000 as proposed by the

House and \$34,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees request that the Office of the Inspector General (IG) audit the policies and procedures for using the Flexiplace Telecommuting Centers to determine adequacy of the methods currently being used by agencies to account for employee time and attendance. Additionally, the IG should review the process used by GSA to determine the costs and benefits of additional telecommuting centers and submit a report on this review to the Committees on Appropriations no later than February 1, 1996.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Amendment No. 71. Inserts Senate language adding Judicial Conference as a participant in determining Courthouse construction priorities.

Amendment No. 72. Inserts Senate language adding Judicial Conference as a participant in determining Courthouse construction priorities.

Amendment No. 73. Restores House language authorizing GSA to accept and retain income to offset the cost of flexiplace work telecommuting centers.

Amendment No. 74. Restores House language authorizing the transfer of \$2.2 million to the Charles County Community College and repeals a previous authorization.

Amendment No. 75. Deletes House language providing transfer authority between "Operating Expenses" and "Policy and Oversight".

Amendment No. 76. Inserts and modifies Senate language prohibiting excessing land in the vicinity of Norfolk Lake, Arkansas by making the provision permanent.

Amendment No. 77. Inserts and modifies Senate language prohibiting excessing land in the vicinity of Bull Shoals Lake, Arkansas by making the provision permanent.

Amendment No. 78. Inserts Senate language amending previous language concerning a land transfer in Hawaii.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 79. Appropriates \$24,549,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$21,129,000 as proposed by the House.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION OPERATING EXPENSES

Amendment No. 80. Appropriates \$199,633,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$193,291,000 as proposed by the House. Within this amount, the conferees have provided a total of \$1,482,000 for the Information Security Oversight Office. The conferees further recommend that the National Security Council continue to provide guidance and policy support to ISOO.

ADMINISTRATIVE REDUCTIONS

The conferees agree to apply the same level administrative reductions to the National Archives and Records Administration appropriation as were applied to other appropriations. The reduction totals \$1,482,000 and shall be applied to the following object classes at the discretion of the Archivist: 21, travel; 22, transportation of things; 23, communications and utilities; 24, printing, reproduction; 25, other services; 26, supplies and materials; and 31, equipment.

CATALOGING, ARCHIVING, AND DIGITIZING ACTIVITIES

The conferees agree to include \$4,500,000 for cataloging, archiving, and digitizing activities at the National Archives as detailed in the Senate report. However, the conferees expect the Archives to submit a finalized plan for the long-term requirements for these activities, including an estimate of the

total cost. The conferees require that the Archivist provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, detailing the National Archives and Records Administration five-year plan on the activities it desires to undertake in the areas of cataloging, archiving, and digitizing activities. The plan shall include detailed budget requirements for fiscal years 1996 and 1997, and estimated requirements for the remaining years.

ARCHIVES FACILITIES AND PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES

REPAIRS AND RESTORATION

Amendment No. 81. Inserts Senate language appropriating \$1,500,000.

The conferees are aware of requirements that may exist for repair and alteration of Presidential Libraries around the country, especially the Hoover and Eisenhower libraries. The conferees direct that the National Archives submit a plan for any required repairs or alterations of the Hoover Presidential Library and the Eisenhower Presidential Library to the Committees on Appropriations.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION GRANTS PROGRAM

Amendment No. 82. Appropriates \$5,000,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$4,000,000 as proposed by the House.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 83. Appropriates \$7,776,000 as proposed by the House instead of \$8,328,000 as proposed by the Senate.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 84. Appropriates \$88,000,000 instead of \$85,524,000 as proposed by the House and \$93,106,000 as proposed by the Senate and inserts language proposed by the Senate regarding health promotion programs.

Reductions from President's budget are as follows: \$14,423,000 from occupational testing; \$2,524,000 from Job Information Offices; \$2,720,000 from Regional Offices; \$808,000 from Federal Quality Institutes; \$140,000 from International Affairs Office; \$376,000 from Executive Direction; \$2,605,000 from Common Services; and \$2,200,000 from Research Office. The conferees provide an additional \$5,224,000 for office close-down costs.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE PAY

Members of the Senior Executive Service (SES), Senior Level, Senior Technical, Board of Contract Appeal Judges and other similarly situated Federal employees did not receive the 2 percent comparability raise granted to all other Federal employees on January 1, 1995. The conferees recognize that during this time of government reorganization and downsizing, it is especially important that the career executive leadership, which is bearing the burden of leading their agencies through this difficult period, be treated in a fair and equitable manner. Therefore, the conferees urge the President to provide the same comparability and locality increase announced for all other employees to these career executives in January, 1996.

Amendment No. 85. Makes available \$102,536,000 for insurance and retirement programs as proposed by the House instead of \$93,261,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 86. Deletes House language prohibiting a reduction-in-force in the Office of Federal Investigations prior to June 30, 1996. The conferees agree that such a reduction in force should not take place before March 31, 1996.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Amendment No. 87. Restores House language regarding the title of this section.

Amendment No. 88. Restores and modifies House language allowing Federal agencies to reimburse OPM for examinations for common occupations by not allowing for delegation of examinations for Administrative Law Judges.

Amendment No. 89. Restores House language allowing OPM to withhold state taxes from payments to annuitants.

Amendment No. 90. Restores House language extending retirement provisions under the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act to individuals taking delayed buyouts.

Amendment No. 91. Restores House language allowing OPM to charge fees to other Federal agencies for the dissemination of employment information.

Amendment No. 92. Inserts Senate language changing reporting requirements for OPM on pay status of employees outside the continental U.S.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 93. Appropriates \$33,269,000 instead of \$32,899,000 as proposed by the House and \$33,639,000 as proposed by the Senate.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS THIS ACT

Amendment No. 94. Deletes House language prohibiting the establishment of offices outside the District of Columbia unless certain criteria are met.

Amendment No. 95. Deletes House language authorizing the payment of incentive awards.

Amendment No. 96. Deletes House language making reference to the Federal Quality Institute.

Amendment No. 97. Restores and modifies House language concerning the designation of Front Royal, Virginia, as a Customs Service Port of Entry by making the provision permanent.

Amendment No. 98. Restores House language providing that fifty percent of obligated balances may remain available for certain purposes.

Amendment No. 99. Restores House language establishing the rate of pay for the Chief of Police of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Amendment No. 100. Inserts Senate language regarding the Mint Revolving Fund.

Amendment No. 101. Inserts and modifies Senate language regarding the Mint Revolving Fund.

Amendment No. 102. Inserts Senate language regarding the Mint Revolving Fund.

Amendment No. 103. Inserts Senate language regarding the Mint Revolving Fund.

Amendment No. 104. Inserts and modifies Senate language regarding the Mint Revolving Fund.

Amendment No. 105. Inserts Senate language regarding the Mint Revolving Fund.

Amendment No. 106. Inserts Senate language clarifying intent by adding numismatic collectibles to list of covered items.

Amendment No. 107. Inserts and modifies Senate language regarding the Mint Revolving Fund.

Amendment No. 108. Deletes House language prohibiting funds in this Act to be used for abortions unless the life of the mother is endangered (addressed in amendment number 109).

Amendment No. 109. Inserts and modifies Senate language prohibiting the funds in this Act to be used for abortions unless the life of the mother is endangered or the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest

modified so that this provision shall become effective once current contracts expire.

Amendment No. 110. Restores House language placing procurement authority for Tax Systems Modernization under the Secretary of the Treasury.

Amendment No. 111. Restores House language providing for relief of certain weekly periodical publications that have been adversely affected by a 1989 mail classification regulation designed to control the inclusion of loose supplements in magazines and similar publications.

Amendment No. 112. Deletes House language limiting training funds to topics that meet identified needs for knowledge skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

Amendment No. 113. Inserts Senate language increasing the amount the Secret Service can expend at one non-governmental property of a sitting President from \$75,000 to \$200,000 for security enhancements.

Amendment No. 114. Inserts Senate language prohibiting implementation of an ATF ruling pertaining to the citric acid content of vodka.

CITRIC ACID IN VODKA

Although conferees agree with the Senate proposal that no part of any appropriation made available in this Act shall be used to implement the ATF and Treasury decision ATF-360 (59 FR 67216, 12/29/94), which limited the amount of citric acid that could be added to vodka to 300 parts per million (PPM), the conferees recognize the complex nature of the various issues surrounding any standard of identity determination with respect to the labeling of vodka. There fore, the ATF is directed to conduct a study, in consultation with industry members, to determine whether a more reasonable industry standard can be established that better balances the interests of the consumer, the industry, and the government.

Amendment No. 115. Inserts Senate language requiring that Secret Service pay for scheduled overtime when they have worked at least 2 hours of unscheduled overtime for protective duties.

TITLE VI—GOVERNMENTWIDE GENERAL PROVISIONS

DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND CORPORATIONS

Amendment No. 116. Deletes House language regarding employment of non-U.S. citizens.

Amendment No. 117. Deletes House language prohibiting the use of grant funds for the acquisition of goods or services unless certain announcement criteria is met.

Amendment No. 118. Deletes Senate language limiting the number of political appointees.

Amendment No. 119. Inserts Senate language clarifying the use of energy savings from Federal agencies to permit 100% of savings to be used as contained in P.L. 102-393.

Amendment No. 120. Deletes House language on establishing the Commission on Federal Mandates.

Amendment No. 121. Deletes House language regarding the FDA Building.

Amendment No. 122. Restores and modifies House language prohibiting Federal training not directly related to the performance of official duties.

FEDERAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

The language in this section is intended to prohibit expenditure of Federal funds on training that is offensive to Federal workers and unnecessary in the prosecution of their official functions. The conferees in no way intend this legislation to prohibit any type of training that is necessary for Federal workers to effectively complete their assigned tasks. In particular, the conferees

agree that training that produces high levels of psychological stress may be absolutely necessary in the training of law enforcement officers, pilots, and other occupations that encounter high levels of stress in the course of official duties.

In addition, this language is not intended to affect any training for displaced workers designed to help them find new employment.

Amendment No. 123. Deletes House language prohibiting the use of the Exchange Stabilization Fund to bolster foreign currencies (addressed in amendment number 129).

Amendment No. 124. Deletes Senate language requiring the Executive Branch to report to Congress on detailees and where they are assigned.

Amendment No. 125. Inserts Senate language prohibiting the expenditure of funds for implementation of agreements in nondisclosure policies unless certain provisions are included.

Amendment No. 126. Inserts and modifies Senate language requiring mandatory use of FTS2000.

Amendment No. 127. Inserts Senate language addressing death benefit requirements for survivors of Secret Service officers.

Amendment No. 128. Inserts and modifies Senate language pertaining to future contract requirements for carrying mail in Alaska.

Amendment No. 129. Inserts and modifies Senate language regarding the Exchange Stabilization Fund; modified for technical corrections.

EXCHANGE STABILIZATION FUND

The conferees agree that to assure continued United States government involvement in international monetary transactions—and the ability to continue to use the Exchange Stabilization Fund in the manner that the Congress has supported for over 60 years—this provision should allow for contemporaneous and confidential certification by the Secretary of the Treasury.

This need for confidentiality is supported by the market sensitivity of these transactions and is consistent with the confidential nature of the monthly reports that the Treasury has provided and continues to provide to the Banking Committees on a confidential basis.

Amendment No. 130. Inserts and modifies Senate language prohibiting a cost of living adjustment during 1996 for Members of Congress; modified to include Federal judges, and executive level personnel.

Amendment No. 131. Inserts Senate language transferring two seized and forfeited A-37 Dragonfly jets to the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, NY for museum purposes.

Amendment No. 132. Reported in disagreement.

Amendment No. 133. Inserts Senate language banning tobacco vending machines in Federal buildings to which children have access.

Amendment No. 134. Deletes Senate language concerning direct delivery of high value supplies.

HIGH VALUE SUPPLIES AND DEPOT SYSTEM

The conferees direct that the General Services Administration should increase use of direct deliver high-dollar value supplies, and only stock items that are profitable, and review the depot system

Amendment No. 135. Inserts and modifies Senate language establishing an Independent Commission on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service by making technical corrections.

Amendment No. 136. Inserts and modifies Senate language requiring the Administrator of GSA to review the feasibility of leasing

agreements with state and local governments for the construction or acquisition of border facilities.

Amendment No. 137. Deletes Senate language requiring each agency to achieve a five percent reduction in energy costs during fiscal year 1996 and makes up to 50 percent of the savings available to the agency.

Amendment No. 138. Deletes Senate language reducing maximum leave that can be accumulated by members of the Senior Executive Service.

Amendment No. 139. Inserts Senate language transferring a building.

Amendment No. 140. Inserts and modifies Senate language providing law enforcement credit to law enforcement officers hired during the three year transition period before FERS was fully implemented.

Amendment No. 141. Deletes Senate language expressing sense of Senate that the GSA and FAA should review personnel rules and labor agreements regarding Federal assistance when relocating personnel because of a change of duty station.

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EMPLOYEE RELOCATION

The conferees are concerned about reports that, under FAA and GSA rules, employees in the Denver, Colorado area were permitted to claim personal housing relocation allowances in connection with their transfer from FAA facilities at Stapleton Field to the new Denver International Airport, even in some cases where an employee's new home was farther from the new job site than the employee's former home. This kind of misuse of public funds is unacceptable and insults American taxpayers. The conferees expect GSA and FAA to review and reform current personnel rules and labor agreements to avoid any repetition of this experience and to restrict relocation allowances to cases in which a job site transfer reasonably and proximately necessitates a change in home site.

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 1996 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 1995 amount, the 1996 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 1996 follow:

New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1995	\$23,500,947,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	24,896,488,000
House bill, fiscal year 1996 .	23,177,286,500
Senate bill, fiscal year 1996	23,141,970,000
Conference agreement, fiscal year 1996	23,163,754,000
Conference agreement compared with:	
New Budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1995	- 337,193,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	- 1,732,734,000
House bill, fiscal year 1996	- 13,532,500
Senate bill, fiscal year 1996	+21,784,000

JIM LIGHTFOOT,
FRANK R. WOLF,
ERNEST ISTOOK,
JACK KINGSTON,
MIKE FORBES,
BOB LIVINGSTON,

Managers on the Part of the House.

RICHARD C. SHELBY,
JAMES M. JEFFORDS,
BEN NIGHTHORSE
CAMPBELL,

MARK O. HATFIELD,
BOB KERREY,
ROBERT C. BYRD,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

NO TAX CUTS WHILE TRYING TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, an editorial ran in yesterday's *Houston Chronicle* that affirmed what a lot of us have been saying for months. It is ridiculous to cut taxes at a time when the Federal Government is desperately trying to balance its budget. In fact, Congress' own analysts pointed out that the tax cut would needlessly add almost \$100 billion to the swollen national debt and increase taxes for working people who make under \$30,000. No one likes to pay taxes. It would be great to give every taxpayer a tax cut. We should balance our budget first.

Speaking of the budget, the new majority has been backslapping and congratulating themselves for weeks about passing a balanced budget, but wait a minute, there is a problem. I see on page 3 of the budget conference report, it says in the budget document in the year 2002 that we will have a \$108 billion deficit. Only in Washington could a deficit of \$108 billion be considered balanced in the year 2002, when we are supposed to have a balanced budget.

In their heart they know the budget is not balanced. All this pomp and celebration is one big joke on the seniors of this country. Do they know why? Yes, because that \$108 billion will come out of the Social Security trust fund to balance that budget.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an article from the *Houston Chronicle* of Tuesday, October 24, 1995.

[From the *Houston Chronicle*, Oct. 24, 1995]

BREATH AND TAXES—BALANCED BUDGET SHOULD COME BEFORE ANY TAX CUT

Democrats are arguing that Republicans in Congress are trying to cut the taxes of the rich and the benefits of the poor. Republicans counter that the Democrats are waging a campaign of fear and class warfare.

There is some truth to both these charges, but most Americans are neither rich nor poor. They should view the political battle as logic vs. irrationality. So far, logic is losing.

Take for instance, the recent vote of the Senate Finance Committee to cut taxes by some \$245 billion. No American enjoys paying high taxes, but a large majority of Americans believe that the nation's No. 1 priority is lowering the federal deficit, a goal that the tax cut would make more difficult.

Republicans say they can cut taxes and still balance the budget in seven years. But Congress' own analysts point out that the tax cut would needlessly add almost \$100 billion to the swollen national debt—debt that no balanced budget will ever diminish.

Balancing the budget requires hard choices, such as the necessity to curb spending on Medicare. But why make the choices any harder than they have to be?

While the GOP tax cut would give parents a tax credit of up to \$500 per child, the Medicare plan would increase fees—taxes—on the elderly. What's the point of giving with one hand only to take away with the other?

The Republicans in Congress deserve the credit for their efforts to balance the budget. The Democrats who held sway for decades had the power to balance the budget—even when Republicans occupied the White House—but never did.

But with the tax cut, the Republicans erode the chances that the budget will actually be balanced in seven years and signal a fragile economy that their spirit may be willing, but their commitment is weak.

President Clinton has done little to clarify the debate. While vowing to veto the GOP tax cuts, he worried in Houston recently that he might have raised taxes too much in 1993 in his successful attempt to temporarily bring down the deficits. If taxes are too high, then why his opposition to reducing them? Now the president says he just misspoke, but such wavering at the top will not produce public understanding.

One can debate whether the GOP tax cuts amount to a "giveaway for the rich" (much of the money will flow out in dribs and drabs to the middle class). However, one feature of the Republican agenda would drastically affect the large number of Americans who make up the working poor.

There is a national consensus that the federal welfare system needs reform. Congress' proposed welfare reform would limit and eventually end welfare for hundreds of thousands of families, but the Republicans' inconsistent budget plan would reduce the Earned Income Tax Credit program that helps keep poor Americans on the job and off the welfare rolls.

How can members of Congress insist on passing a tax credit for middle-class parents if they have to make things tougher on the poorest families in order to pay for it and still balance the budget?

Conservatives argue that the Earned Income Tax Credit is rife with fraud and abuse, but the proper response is to step up enforcement against the abusers.

THE CHOSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the reconciliation legislation, that legislation which will end up controlling all spending and tax cuts to come before the Congress this year, is about choices. It is about choices that the Republicans have made for millions and millions of Americans. It is about the choice that they made to cut Medicare by \$270 billion. It is about the choice they made in those Medicare cuts, Medicaid cuts, to remove nursing home standards for the protection of our elderly, to remove our elderly from the entitlement of having nursing home care paid for if they and their families cannot afford it in the twilight of their lives. It is about the choices that they made to cut \$10 billion from student loans so that now America's students, their families, are deeper in debt to pay educational costs than any time in the history of this country. It is about the choices that they made to cut the school lunch program and to

cut back on nutrition programs for those who are the most vulnerable in our society.

Mr. Speaker, those are the choices of the Republican Party in this budget reconciliation bill. Those are the choices that they made about this generation of Americans. Those are the choices they made about that generation of Americans that fought the world wars, that fought the Korean conflict, that fought in Vietnam, who fought hard for democracy, who fought hard to save Western civilization in its time of need, but the Republicans are not prepared to fight for their Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, we should fight as hard for their Medicare as they fought on the beaches of Normandy, or the beaches of Iwo Jima, or Okinawa, or in Korea. But we are going to cut that Medicare \$270 billion.

Why? Because the Republicans did not want to make other choices. They chose not to have high-income Americans continue to pay their fair share. In fact, what they chose was what the *Wall Street Journal* points out. They choose to give them a tax cut. As the *Wall Street Journal* said to the rich of this country, "Don't do anything yet, but start salivating." Why should they start salivating? Because the tax bill passed on Wednesday by the House of Representatives could turn out to be the biggest tax saving bonanza in years for upper-income Americans so we have \$270 billion in cuts in Medicare to pay for \$245 billion in cuts to some of the wealthiest people in this country. As we see, under the Republican plan, Mr. Speaker, 64 percent of the wealthy families in this country get a tax break, but 86 percent of middle-income families get a tax increase or they pay the same.

Those are choices that the Republicans have made in this proposal. They have chosen to give the wealthy, the rich, those who do not need a tax cut, a tax cut. They chose to pay for it by cutting the health care to our elderly, by cutting the health care to our poor, by cutting the health care to millions of Americans' children. They chose to pay for it by cutting student loans, and they chose to pay for it by cutting school lunches. They chose to create millions of desperately poor Americans so that they could take care of the wealthiest in this country.

They also chose to hold the Defense Department harmless. Everybody else has to contribute to balancing the budget, but not the Department of Defense.

They also chose to hold harmless corporate welfare, the large timber companies, the large mining companies, the large oil companies on which this bill lavishes billions of dollars in subsidies to those who do not need it, to some of the most profitable companies in this country. But those were the choices that the Republicans made. They chose to lead those people out of