

that the only way we are going to relieve the burden on the American family today is to lower the tax level and allow them to keep the wages they earn, which allows them to fulfill the duties and responsibilities that they have.

I argue that both putting people first, which resulted in the largest tax increase in America history, and now followed by putting families first, which will call for yet another tax increase, is not the prescription for the American family.

If you look at the last 25 years and what has happened to the American family, as its tax level has pushed upward and upward, you have seen increasing behavior and increasing conditions in the American family that are the exact opposite of that which we would like to achieve.

If you really want to say put families first, then lower the economic burden, lower the economic pressure, and let the wage earner keep their wages, and let the wage earner and family do that which they set as their own priorities of the American family.

Mr. President, I yield back any remaining time.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 10, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,148,771,318,656.40.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,409.73 as his or her share of that debt.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, pursuant to section 303 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. sec. 1383), a notice of proposed rulemaking was submitted by the Office of Compliance, U.S. Congress. The notice publishes proposed amendments to the rules governing the procedures for the Office of Compliance under the Congressional Accountability Act.

Section 304(b) requires this notice to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD; therefore I ask unanimous consent that the notice be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the notice was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE—THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PROCEDURAL RULES

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Summary: The Executive Director of the Office of Compliance is publishing proposed amendments to the rules governing the procedures for the Office of Compliance under the Congressional Accountability Act (P.L. 104-1, 109 Stat. 3). The proposed amendments to the procedural rules have been approved by the Board of Directors, Office of Compliance.

Dates: Comments are due within 30 days after publication of this Notice in the Congressional Record.

Addresses: Submit written comments (an original and ten copies) to the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, Room LA 200, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999. Those wishing to receive notification of receipt of comments are requested to include a self-addressed, stamped post card. Comments may also be transmitted by facsimile ("FAX") machine to (202)426-1913. This is not a toll-free call. Copies of comments submitted by the public will be available for review at the Law Library Reading Room, Room LM-201, Law Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Building, Washington, D.C., Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

For Further Information Contact: Executive Director, Office of Compliance at (202) 724-9250. This notice is also available in the following formats: large print, braille, audio tape, and electronic file on computer disk. Requests for this notice in an alternative format should be made to Mr. Russell Jackson, Director, Service Department, Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, (202) 224-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Background

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("CAA" or "Act") was enacted into law on January 23, 1995. In general, the CAA applies the rights and protections of eleven federal labor and employment law statutes to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch. Section 303 of the CAA directs that the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance ("Office") shall, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Office, adopt rules governing the procedures for the Office, and may amend those rules in the same manner. The procedural rules currently in effect, approved by the Board and adopted by the Executive Director, were published December 22, 1995 in the Congressional Record (141 CONG. R. S 19239 (daily ed., Dec. 22, 1995)). The proposed revisions and additions that follow amend certain of the existing procedures by which the Office provides for the consideration and resolution of alleged violations of the laws made applicable under Part A of title II of the CAA, and establish procedures for consideration of matters arising under Part D of title II of the CAA, which is generally effective October 1, 1996.

A summary of the proposed amendments is set forth below in Section II; the text of the provisions that are proposed to be added or revised is found in Section III. The Executive Director invites comment from interested persons on the content of these proposed amendments to the procedural rules.

II. Summary of proposed amendments to the procedural rules

(A) A general reorganization of the rules is proposed to accommodate proposed new provisions, and, consequently, to re-order the rules in a clear and logical sequence. As a result, some sections will be moved and/or renumbered. Cross-references in appropriate sections will be modified accordingly. These organizational changes are listed in the following comparison table.

<i>Former section No.</i>	<i>New section No.</i>
§ 2.06 Complaints	§ 5.01
§ 2.07 Appointment of the Hearing Officer	§ 5.02
§ 2.08 Filing, Service and Size Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and Other Documents	§ 9.01
§ 2.09 Dismissal of Complaint	§ 5.03
§ 2.10 Confidentiality	§ 5.04
§ 2.11 Filing of Civil Action	§ 2.06

<i>Former section No.</i>	<i>New section No.</i>
§ 8.02 Compliance with Final Decisions, Requests for Enforcement ..	§ 8.03
§ 8.03 Judicial Review	§ 8.04
§ 9.01 Attorney's Fees and Costs	§ 9.03
§ 9.02 Ex Parte Communications	§ 9.04
§ 9.03 Settlement Agreements	§ 9.05
§ 9.04 Revocation, Amendment or Waiver of Rules	§ 9.06

(B) Several revisions are proposed to provide for consideration of matters arising under section 220 (Part D of title II) of the CAA, which applies certain provisions of chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code relating to Federal Service Labor-Management Relations ("chapter 71"). For example, technical changes in the procedural rules will be necessary in order to provide for the exercise by the General Counsel and labor organizations of various rights and responsibilities under section 220 of the Act. These proposed revisions are as follows:

Section 1.01. "Scope and Policy" is proposed to be amended by inserting in the first sentence a reference to Part D of title II of the CAA in order to clarify that the procedural rules now govern procedures under that Part of the Act.

Section 1.02(c) is proposed to be amended to make the definition of the term "employee" consistent with the definition contained in the substantive regulations to be issued by the Board under section 220 of the CAA.

Section 1.02(i) is proposed to be amended to redefine the term "party" to include, as appropriate, the General Counsel or a labor organization.

A new section 1.02(j) defining "respondent" is proposed to be added. (The addition of subsection (j) will result in the subsequent subsections being renumbered accordingly.)

Section 1.05 "Designation of Representative" is to be revised to allow for a labor organization to designate a representative.

Section 1.07(c), relating to confidentiality requirements, is proposed to be amended to include a labor organization as a participant within the meaning of that section.

Section 7.04(b) concerning the scheduling of the prehearing conference is modified to substitute the word "parties" for "employee and the employing office".

(C) Modifications to subsections 1.07(b) and (d), concerning confidentiality requirements, are proposed in order to clarify the requirements and restrictions set forth in these subsections, and to make clear that a party or its representative may disclose information obtained in confidential proceedings for limited purposes under certain conditions.

(D) Section 2.04 "Mediation," is proposed to be amended in certain respects.

In section 204(a) the language "including any and all possibilities" would be modified to read "including the possibility" of reaching a resolution.

Section 204(e)(2) is proposed to be modified to allow parties jointly to request an extension of the mediation period orally, instead of permitting only written requests for such extensions.

Section 2.04(f)(2) is proposed to be revised to explain more fully the procedures involving the "Agreement to Mediate".

A new subsection 2.04(h) is proposed regarding informal resolutions and settlement agreements. (The subsections following the newly added subsection 2.04(h) would be renumbered accordingly.)

(E) Subpart E of the Procedural Rules had been reserved for the implementation of section 220 of the CAA. The Board has recently published proposed regulations pursuant to