

“loses significant amounts due to persistent fraudulent and wasteful claims and abusive billings.”

The risk of losses from the \$941 billion Federal loan portfolio is another source of taxpayer vulnerability. Currently, the Government has \$44 billion of defaulted guaranteed loans on its books and has written off many billions more over the last few years. According to GAO, three loan programs (student, farm, and housing) are especially vulnerable due to poor agency management. GAO also calls for improving Federal contract management at several agencies that spend tens of billions of dollars each year on contractor support. Finally, the 2000 census was placed on the high risk list. The census has tremendous implications in the allocation of billions of dollars in Federal funding and for the apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives.

However, GAO was not all doom and gloom acknowledging that, “after decades of seeing high risk problems and management weaknesses recur in agency after agency,” Congress has moved to enact several Government-wide reforms to address the situation. GAO mentions five such laws as key to improving operations in the Federal Government: The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and the Clinger-Cohen Act information management and procurement reforms of 1996. These laws are designed to get the Federal Government to operate in a sound, businesslike manner. It is up to Congress and the administration to ensure that these management reforms are implemented to improve Government performance and results.

I want to work with the administration and my colleagues in Congress to improve the Government's operations. As part of this process, I plan to invite before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee the Director of OMB to address the problems identified by GAO. We have the legislative framework in place to eradicate these programs from GAO's high risk list. What we need is the vision and fortitude to implement these bipartisan management reforms and achieve a lasting solution to the management problems that torment the pocketbook of our citizens.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations

which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation: Mr. EMERSON of Missouri and Mr. SKELTON of Missouri.

The message also announced that the Speaker appoints the following Member to the Board of Trustees of Galaudet University: Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1054. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of fourteen rules including one rule relative to Class E airspace, (RIN2120-AA64, AA66) received on February 11, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1055. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules including one rule relative to Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation, (RIN2105-AC63, AC34) received on February 11, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1056. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1057. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules including one rule relative to National Emission Standards, (FRL-5669-3, 5682-9, 5683-4), received on February 10, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1058. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of one rule relative to Land Disposal Restrictions, (FRL-5681-4) received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1059. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules including one rule relative to approval and promulgation of implementation plans, (FRL-5680-5, 5685-7, 5685-1), received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1060. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of one rule relative to Military Munitions, (FRL-5686-4) received on February 6, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1061. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules including one rule relative to approval and promulgation of implementation plans, (FRL-5686-2, 5685-8, 5678-5), received on February 6, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1062. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled “Dependency and Income” (RIN2900-AI47, AI36) received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1063. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administration, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled “Exemption from Import and Export Requirements for Personal Use” (RIN1117-AA38, AA42); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1064. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled “Interim Guidelines for the Examination of Claims” (RIN0651-XX09) received on February 6, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1065. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled “Badlands National Park” (RIN1024-AC30) received on February 8, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1066. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, an acquisition regulation (RIN1991-AB34) received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1067. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning process-oriented energy efficiency; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1068. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Notice 97-15 received on February 10, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1069. A communication from the Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting a report of accomplishments; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1070. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled “The Veterans' Medicare Reimbursement Model Project Act of 1997”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1071. A communication from the Director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting pursuant to law, a report containing an analysis and description of services for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1072. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Determination relative to the Republic of Yemen; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1073. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled “Removal of Commercial Communications Satellites” received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.