

“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.

EC 1074. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to authorize payment of arrears to the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 1075. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on U.S. Government assistance to and cooperative activities with the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 1076. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding the Operator Licensing Program (received on February 5, 1997); to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC 1077. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to final regulations, (RIN1820-AB12) received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 1078. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy, Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Investigational Device Exemptions," received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 1079. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy, Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Saccharin and its Salts," received on February 10, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 1080. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy, Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Food Labeling: Health Claims," received on February 10, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 1081. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the National Practitioner Data Bank Malpractice Reporting Requirements; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 1082. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-458 adopted by the Council; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 1083. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-525 adopted by the Council on December 3, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC 1084. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-526 adopted by the Council on December 3, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC 1085. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-512 adopted by the Council on December 3, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1086. A communication from the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Necessity and Costs of District of Columbia Services"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1087. A communication from the Chair of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commis-

sion of the United States, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1088. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the statement of recommended accounting standards; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1089. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of additions to the Procurement List received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1090. A communication from the Corporation For Public Broadcasting, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1091. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of the Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-31. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire; ordered to lie on the table.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Paul E. Tsongas, former United States Senator, on January 18, 1997, succumbed to pneumonia after a courageous battle with health problems that had plagued him since he was diagnosed with cancer in 1983; and

Whereas, born on February 14, 1941 and brought up in Lowell, Massachusetts, he was viewed as one of Lowell's finest sons who used the values he learned on the streets of Lowell to eventually lead a bipartisan effort to encourage Congress to balance the federal budget; and

Whereas, his Lowell high school years, while working at the family dry-cleaning shop, were followed by graduation from Dartmouth College, Peace Corps in Ethiopia and the West Indies, Yale Law School, and a congressional internship; and

Whereas, he began his political career in 1968 when he was elected to the city council in Lowell, then ran for Middlesex County commissioner and won in 1972, and in 1974 at the age of 33, continued on to the United States Congress; and

Whereas, throughout his life, he practiced law and remained active in public affairs, speaking out on both local and national issues; and

Whereas, he shattered ideological stereotypes, favoring "liberalism that works," as symbolized by the federally financed urban park that drew high-tech companies to the empty mills along the Merrimack River in his native city; and

Whereas, he won the 1992 New Hampshire primary and, although they frequently disagreed early in 1992, President Clinton eventually agreed with the former senator on many issues and adopted much of the Tsongas platform a year later in his State of the Union address; and

Whereas, in 1992, he joined former United States Senator Warren Rudman as a found-

ing member of the Concord Coalition, a public interest group focusing attention on the nation's economic problems and pushing the need for balancing the nation's books to the forefront of public awareness; and

Whereas, although he was viewed as "an outspoken man and a determined and successful politician who never shied away from tough political realities," he was also "a good listener, a good coalition builder, and you knew he was always working for the public good"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the New Hampshire senate recognize the many accomplishments and contributions of former Senator Paul E. Tsongas; and

That condolences be extended to his wife, Niki, and three daughters, Ashley, Katina, and Molly; and

That copies of this resolution, signed by the president of the senate, be forwarded by the senate clerk to the Tsongas family, to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the New Hampshire Congressional delegation, and to the state library.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

S. Res. 54. An original resolution authorizing biennial expenditures by committees of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. D'AMATO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that she be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Small Business.

Aida Alvarez, of New York, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that she be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. FORD, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BOND, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BURNS, Mr. COATS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr.