

grown up, I have begun to notice more and more people I know using legal and illegal drugs. Never before did I even know 'Meth' existed. But now, my school feels there is a need to take courses about it. I agree with you that drug use should stop, and fast." Or Christina, 12, who writes about her concern for what's being done to stop underage drug use. Or Heath, a senior, concerned about growing use in junior high and elementary schools. Or Jennie, a junior, who has seen peers using PCP and crack or acid. Or the many others who have written confused about what they should think or what our policy is.

It is to this and following generations that we are responsible for and to. They look to us for guidance. They rely on us to protect them and their futures. That is what is at issue here. The efforts that we undertake to keep our society drug free are the things that we do to protect our kids. We do this because it is the responsible thing to do. We do this because no sane or civilized society can long endure that fails its children.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 5, the Federal debt stood at \$5,359,515,287,678.12.

One year ago, March 5, the Federal debt stood at \$5,016,462,000,000.

Five years ago, March 5, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,849,118,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 5, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,258,090,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, March 5, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,045,007,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,314,508,287,678.12—during the past 15 years.

REPORT CONCERNING THE TRADE POLICY AGENDA AND THE TRADE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 21

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 1997 Trade Policy Agenda and 1996 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 6, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 513. An act to exempt certain contracts entered into by the government of the District of Columbia from review by the Council of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Government Affairs.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 4. Concurrent resolution commending and thanking the Honorable Warren Christopher for his exemplary service as Secretary of State.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala.

H. Con. Res. 18. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Nicaragua on the success of their democratic elections held on October 20, 1996.

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten Commandments by Judge Roy S. Moore, a judge on the circuit court of the State of Alabama.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 513. An act to exempt certain contracts entered into by the government of the District of Columbia from review by the Council of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Government Affairs.

The following measures were read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 18. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Nicaragua on the success of their democratic

elections held on October 20, 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten Commandments by Judge Roy S. Moore, a judge on the circuit court of the State of Alabama; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

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-1318. A communication from the Administrator of the Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Food Assistance in Disaster and Distress Situations" received on February 26, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1319. A communication from the Secretary of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Anti-manipulation Rules Concerning Securities Offerings" (RIN3235-AF54, AF97); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1320. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "New Starts Criteria" (RIN2132-AA50) received on February 27, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1321. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 95-16; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1322. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 95-14; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1323. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules including a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans" (FRL5660-2, 5698-1, 5697-9, 5688-8) received on March 5, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1324. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations" (RIN2115-AE46) received on February 27, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1325. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Regulatory Flexibility Analysis" received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1326. A communication from the Vice-Chairman of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to the D.C. fiscal year 1998 Budget and Financial Plan; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1327. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)