

(Two trillion, two hundred ninety-three billion, four hundred ninety-three million.)

Fifteen years ago, June 16, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,076,341,000,000. (One trillion, seventy-six billion, three hundred forty-one million.)

Twenty-five years ago, June 16, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$426,203,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-six billion, two hundred three million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,929,209,554,888.33 (Four trillion, nine hundred twenty-nine billion, two hundred nine million, five hundred fifty-four thousand, eight hundred eighty-eight dollars and thirty-three cents) during the past 25 years.

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.)

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-2205. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a draft of proposed legislation to modify Medicare payments; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2206. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning increases in inpatient hospital payment rates and recommendations for hospitals subject to the Medicare prospective payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2207. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Officer, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules concerning the small producers' wine tax credit (RIN1512-AB65), received on June 2, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2208. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Notice 97-36, received on June 11, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2209. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Veterans' Medical Care Funding Improvement Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2210. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on recessions and deferrals, received on June 16, 1997; referred

jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Armed Services, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Energy and Natural Resources, Finance, Foreign Relations, Governmental Affairs, and Judiciary.

EC-2211. A communication from the Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Fees for Official Inspection and Official Weighing Services" (RIN0508-AA52), received on June 17, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2212. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Thrift Depositor Protection Board, under the Secretary for Domestic Finance, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to abolishing the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2213. A communication from the Acting Executive Director, Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Resolution Funding Corporation for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2214. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to direct spending or receipts legislation; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-2215. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Spearment Oil Produced in the Far West", received on June 16, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2216. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program (RIN0572-AB31), received on June 16, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 924. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-29).

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. THURMOND (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 915. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to suspend temporarily the duty on certain manufacturing equipment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 916. A bill to designate the United States Post Office building located at 750

Highway 28 East in Taylorsville, Mississippi, as the "Blaine H. Eaton Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BYRD):

S. 917. A bill to amend section 6105 of title 38, United States Code, to expand the range of criminal offenses resulting in forfeiture of veterans benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 918. A bill to reform the financing of Federal Elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 919. A bill to establish the Independent Bipartisan Commission on Campaign Finance Reform to recommend reforms in the law relating to elections for Federal office; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 920. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue an annual report card on the performance of the States in protecting children placed for adoption in foster care, or with a guardian, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 921. A bill to immunize donations made in the form of charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts from the antitrust laws and State laws similar to the antitrust laws; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 922. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, to issue minimum safety and security standards for dealers of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 923. A bill to deny veterans benefits to persons convicted of Federal capital offenses; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 924. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 925. A bill to provide authority for women' business centers to enter into contracts with Federal departments and agencies to provide specific assistance to women and other under-served small business concerns; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 926. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the child and dependent care credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. REED, and Mr. GLENN):

S. 927. A bill to reauthorize the Sea Grant Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JEFFORDS:

S. 928. A bill to provide for a regional education and workforce training system in the metropolitan Washington area, to improve the school facilities of the District of Columbia, and to fund such activities in part by an income tax on nonresident workers in the