

(Two trillion, three hundred billion, thirteen million)

Twenty-five years ago, July 24, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$434,436,000,000 (Four hundred thirty-four billion, four hundred thirty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,934,445,340,728.99 (Four trillion, nine hundred thirty-four billion, four hundred forty-five million, three hundred forty thousand, seven hundred twenty-eight dollars and ninety-nine cents) during the past 25 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:49 a.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. 2160. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 709. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1226. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the unauthorized inspection of tax returns or tax return information.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 2:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the crypt beneath the rotunda of the Capitol in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the Supreme Court Building for the late honorable William J. Brennan, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1119) 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 the such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and that the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on National Security, for consideration of the House bill, and the Senate amendments, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SPENCE, Mr. STUMP, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KASICH, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania,

Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BUYER, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. TALENT, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WATTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. RILEY, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SISKI, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. MCHALE, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. RODRIQUEZ.

As additional conferees from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 2 of rule XLVIII: Mr. GOSS, Mr. LEWIS of California, and Mr. DICKS.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of sections 344, 601, 654, 735, 1021, 3143, 3144, 3201, 3202, 3402, and 3404 of the House bill, and sections 338, 601, 663, 706, 1064, 2823, 3136, 3140, 3151, 3160, 3201, and 3402 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. SCHAEFER of Colorado, and Mr. DINGELL.

Provided, That Mr. OXLEY is appointed in lieu of Mr. SCHAEFER of Colorado for consideration of sections 344 and 1021 of the House bill and section 2823 of the Senate amendment:

Provided further, That Mr. BILIRAKIS is appointed in lieu of Mr. SCHAEFER of Colorado for consideration of sections 601, 654, and 735 of the House bill, and sections 338, 601, 663, and 706 of the Senate amendment:

Provided further, That Mr. TAUZIN is appointed in lieu of Mr. SCHAEFER of Colorado for consideration of section 1064 of the Senate amendment.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of sections 374, 658, and 3143 of the House bill, and section 664 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. FAWELL, and Ms. SANCHEZ:

Provided, That Mr. RIGGS is appointed in lieu of Mr. FAWELL for consideration of section 658 of the House bill and section 664 of the Senate amendment.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for consideration of sections 322 and 3527 of the House bill, and sections 1068, 1107, 2811, and 3527 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BURTON, Mr. HORN, and Mr. WAXMAN.

As additional conferees from the Committee on House Oversight, for consideration of section 543 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. THOMAS, Mr. NEY, and Mr. GEJDENSON.

As additional conferees from the Committee on International Relations, for consideration of sections 1101-111, 1202, 1204, 1205, 1207, 1210, and 1231-1234 of the House bill, and sections 1009, 1013, 1021, 1022, 1056, 1057, 1082, and 1085 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GILMAN, Mr. BEREUTER, and Mr. HAMILTON.

As additional conferees from the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 374, 1057, 3521, 3522, and 3541 of the House bill, and sections 831, 1073, 1075, 1106, and 1201-1216 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. HYDE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. CONYERS.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Resources, for consideration of sections 214, 601, 653, 1021, 2835, 2901-2914, and 3404 of the House bill, and sections 234, 381-392, 601, 706, 2819, and 3158 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. TAUZIN, and Mr. MILLER of California:

Provided, That Mr. HEFLEY is appointed in lieu of Mr. SAXTON for consideration of section 3404 of the House bill.

Provided further, That Mr. DELAHUNT is appointed in lieu of Mr. MILLER of California for consideration of sections 2901-2914 of the House bill, and sections 381-392 of the Senate amendment.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Science, for consideration of sections 214 and 3148 of the House bill, and sections 234 and 1064 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. BROWN of California:

Provided, That Mr. ROHRABACHER is appointed in lieu of Mr. CALVERT for consideration of section 1064 of the Senate amendment.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 345, 563, 601, 1021, 2861, and 3606 of the House bill, and section 601 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. BORSKI.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of sections 751, 752, and 759 of the House bill, and sections 220, 542, 751, 752, 758, 1069, 1074, and 1076 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar.

S. 1065. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act with respect to the appointment of an independent counsel.

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2160. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

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-2598. A communication from the Director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services" (RIN0720-AA36) received on July 24, 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2599. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a notice of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2600. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on July 24, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2601. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an alteration prospectus; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2602. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Performance Improvement 1997: Evaluation