

awarded this enormous punitive judgment despite findings by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) that CSXT did not cause the accident and that no serious injuries resulted from the accident.

In light of these egregious examples, it is time for Congress to pass legislation to reign in these exploding legal costs which have hurt American businesses, stifled ingenuity, and punished consumers through higher prices and decreased competition. S. 648 would mark an important first step in reforming a tort system which all too often better resembles a lottery than a forum of justice. I urge our leadership to make S. 648 a priority in the first session of the 105th Congress.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate on September 22, 1997, received a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The nomination received on September 22, 1997, is shown in today's RECORD 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-2996. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-117 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2997. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-119 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2998. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-125 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2999. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-128 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3000. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-129 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3001. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-130 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3002. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-131 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3003. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-132 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3004. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-139 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3005. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-140 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3006. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-143 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3007. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-144 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3008. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-126 adopted by the Council on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3009. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports and testimony for July 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3010. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a financial audit relative to the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3011. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to General Accounting Office employees; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3012. A communication from the Deputy Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Removal of Superseded References to the Former Honorarium Ban" (RIN3209-AA00, AA04) received on September 11, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3013. A communication from the Director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Administration and Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "The Privacy Program" received on September 8, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3014. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase From People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to additions to the procurement list, received on September 5, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3015. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Acquisition Regulation" (RIN3206-AH45) received on September 8, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3016. A communication from the Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Pay Administration (General)" (RIN3206-AF89) received on September 18, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3017. A communication from the Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Acquisition Regulation" (RIN3206-AF32, AG79, AG68); to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3018. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend title 5, U.S.C., to extend the

Federal physicians comparability allowance authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3019. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on accountability for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3020. A communication from the Director of the National Archives and Records Administration, Information Security Oversight Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3021. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of cases decided during fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3022. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Achieving a Representative Federal Workforce: Addressing the Barriers to Hispanic Participation"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3023. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, Office of Governmentwide Policy, U.S. General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation" (RIN9000-AH21) received on September 23, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3024. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to paperwork; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3025. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the list of General Accounting Office reports and testimony for August 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Robert L. Mallett, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

W. Scott Gould, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce.

W. Scott Gould, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Thomas R. Bloom.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I report favorably four nominations lists in the Coast Guard, which were printed in full in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on September 3, 15, and 18, 1997, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

(The nominations ordered to lie on the Secretary's desk were printed in