

Fortunately, as it has grown over the last 25 years, SAS has extended its community involvement to include areas around the United States and the world. The company and its founders believe very strongly that education and technology are vitally important for our local communities, state, and country.

SAS' customer list have grown significantly over the past 25 years. SAS customers now include 98 of the "Fortune 100" companies. In addition, all fourteen major Federal Government departments currently use SAS software. SAS customers continually praise its software, as demonstrated by a 98-percent annual renewal rate.

For the past quarter century, SAS has annually reinvested at least 30 percent of its income into Research & Development, far exceeding the industry average. As a result of its commitment to R&D, SAS is positioned to continue to develop important solutions for its customers.

SAS co-owners and co-founders, Dr. James H. Goodnight and John P. Sall, have built a company that is committed to providing not only valuable software solutions for its customers, but also providing a worker friendly environment for their employees. SAS' treatment of its employees is a model for other companies around the world to follow. For example, SAS was a corporate pioneer by providing on-site daycare for its employees' children as early as 1981. In 1986, SAS began offering onsite healthcare for its employees. Last year, the company's Health Care Center had more than 33,000 patient visits. SAS also provides onsite employee cafeterias, an employee fitness center, massage therapy and hair care services. SAS has created a family atmosphere that inspires employee loyalty and bottom line success.

As a result of the many employee benefits and the positive employee-friendly atmosphere created by its co-founders, SAS' employee turnover rate is just 5 percent as compared with a 20-percent industry average. Based on its workplace environment, SAS has received corporate leadership awards from numerous publications, including Working Mother, Fortune, and Business Week magazines.

Based on its past performance, I have no doubt that SAS will continue to provide an exciting work environment for its employees and remain committed to supporting community causes. SAS and its employees most certainly must be excited about the next 25 years, and as a U.S. Senator from North Carolina, I am proud that SAS was born in my State. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:40 am, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 2563. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2563. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

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-3486. A communication from the General Counsel of the Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, received on August 13, 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3487. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Exemption From Pre-market Notification Requirements; Class I Devices; Technical Amendment" (Doc. No. 01N-0073) received on August 15, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3488. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Requirements Applicable to Blood, Blood Components, and Source Plasma" (Doc. No. 98N-0673) received on August 15, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3489. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program" received on

August 16, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3490. A communication from the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Chief Executive Officer, received on August 16, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3491. A communication from the Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the discontinuation of service in acting role for the position of Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia and the Near East, received on August 15, 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3492. A communication from the Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, received on August 15, 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3493. A communication from the Adviser of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exchange Visitor Program Educare" received on August 15, 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3494. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Justice Management Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemption of Department of Justice Systems: Correspondence Management Systems for the Department of Justice (DOJ-003); Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act and Mandatory Declassification Review Requests and Administrative Appeals for the Department of Justice (DOJ-004)" received on August 9, 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3495. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Classification of Certain Pension Employee Benefit Trusts, and Other Trusts" (RIN1545-AY09) received on August 9, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3496. A communication from the Program Manager of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identification Markings Placed on Firearms" (RIN1512-AB84) received on August 9, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3497. A communication from the Director of the Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "K nonimmigrant classification for spouses of U.S. citizens and their children under the legal immigration family equity act of 2000" (RIN1115-AG12) received on August 15, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3498. A communication from the Director of Headquarters and Executive Personnel Services, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, received on August 13, 2001; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3499. A communication from the Director of Headquarters and Executive Personnel Services, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of acting officer in the position of