

I think there are major implications to issues like drawing lines, congressional lines, just for certain ethnic groups, and even caucuses here in the Congress of the United States, where Black, Hispanic and others are based on ethnicity. I always wonder about how that helps us come together as a Nation; how does this help us actually define ourselves as a Nation, the common set of ideals, of values, of languages?

Now, I am Italian. I am 100 percent Italian. I am a recent arrival, as a matter of fact, by heritage. My grandparents came to the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s, along with the wave of immigration all over the world. As I say, both sides came from Italy, so I am relatively new, if you want to think of it that way. I cannot trace my heritage back to the Mayflower. So I am a relatively new American, if you want to think of it that way. Yet I must say, Madam Speaker, that in growing up, all the textbooks I was given in school, all the things that I was told in my home, all of the influences of my life, and all of the references to my history, our history, if you want to say it that way, was all American history.

I grew up thinking of Jefferson and Madison and Adams, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin. These were the heroes of my history. That is what I was taught, both at home and in school. There was never any idea that we were somehow still tied politically or linguistically to Italy. As a matter of fact, and perhaps even unfortunately, Italian was not allowed to be spoken in my grandparents' home. It was an indication of their desire to separate themselves from the nation of their birth and to come here and start anew.

That, as I say, is what I think has changed. I believe our schools do not teach that. I believe that we are witnessing this significant shift in culture, and I think it is something worthy of us to discuss. Massive immigration, combined with radical multiculturalism spells disaster, as far as I am concerned, Madam Speaker. As I say, I have often come to the floor to talk about the other implications of immigration, but tonight I just wanted to address this topic for a short period of time because I do think it is worthy of note.

Perhaps it is because I just came back from overseas where I could see the effects of this clash of civilizations; that everywhere we look around the world, as a matter of fact, we can see tribalism breaking up nation states, and that is the new world in which we live. It is happening all over. Countries are facing this kind of problem, and I worry about our own future. And I think that in order for us to sustain ourselves, in order for the United States to sustain itself and be the leader of Western Civilization, that we have to have a cohesion, we have to have a homogenous society.

Now, I am not suggesting for a moment that anybody has to ignore their

background. Certainly I do not. Certainly I appreciate my own, and I appreciate anybody else's desire to revel in their own cultural background and heritage. That is not the issue at all. It is the issue of whether or not we disconnect, though, politically, from what we were to who we are today. And I worry that that is not happening.

There are certainly indications that something very, very different is occurring in America today as a result of massive immigration into the United States. Uncontrolled immigration. We can, in fact, still have immigration. We do not have to slam any doors shut. We simply have to reduce the number; and we have to, on the other side of the coin, begin to once again focus on what it means to be an American in our public schools, in our institutions, in our leaders.

I think the President of the United States and all people entrusted with the responsibility of leadership in America should focus on that and talk about it. It is imperative now, I think, as we enter into this new world, this clash of civilizations that I mentioned. It is imperative that we identify for the world at large and for our own citizens exactly who we are and why there is the struggle against the evil that we have identified as the terrorists in the world. It is in a way a clash of civilizations, certainly; and it is important for Americans to understand who we are, where we came from, and where we are going.

We need a cohesive society. We need a language in which we can all communicate. Even that, of course, as you know, is being challenged continually. Bilingual education, as an example, is where children are placed in classes and taught in a language other than English for the purpose, they say, of increasing their educational attainment levels. But even when it is shown over and over again that there is no actual increase in educational attainment levels, people still push bilingual education. So you have to ask yourself why. What is the purpose? If it is not to actually help a child accomplish something, accomplish a better education, obtain a better education, then why are we doing it? It is, I suggest, Madam Speaker, as a result of this radical multiculturalism; the idea that we do not want people to disconnect from that other culture, wherever they came from and what they were, and connect to a new one. We want to foster this Balkanizing sort of phenomenon that we are experiencing in the United States. All very dangerous stuff.

POVERTY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I have listened to much of the discussion this evening, and I have de-

cidated that I am going to talk about something that I do not think we talk about nearly enough, and I am sure that we do not do nearly enough about it, and that is the whole issue of poverty and what it does to millions of people in our Nation and what it does to millions of people throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, the stubborn persistence of poverty in America is one of the most inexplicable features of our national life. America, that is our country, in the 21st century is the wealthiest Nation in the history of the world. We have the resources to provide for all of our citizens, and certainly we have the resources to end hunger, homelessness, and to offer quality health care and education to all of our people. Yet, in our great national paradox, we have not chosen to do so.

The gap between the few ultra-wealthy and the overwhelming majority of working people, that gap, which was once quite small, has grown and is now wider than at any time since the Great Depression.

□ 2200

It has, in the judgment of many, become so large that it undermines our sense of a Nation of equals. Poverty and income inequality present a real challenge to our notion of America as a Nation that promotes equality and that is seriously moving in that direction.

In 1997, the top 1 percent of the U.S. population, that is, 2.6 million people, had as much after-tax income as the 100 million Americans with the lowest income.

At the same time, household debt reached historic highs. The total value of all forms of outstanding household debt was greater than the total disposable income of all households.

The wealthiest 1 percent reduced their share of the debt by 27 percent, while the middle 20 percent of households increased their share of the debt by 38.8 percent.

There was no progress in reducing poverty between 1995 and 1999 despite an increasing economy. More than 1.4 million Americans are classified as food insecure, including the cruelest feature of poverty, the concentration of children among the poor.

Madam Speaker, 45 percent of children in poor families are considered food insecure.

Reductions in poverty as a result of economic growth were entirely offset by increased poverty due to cuts in government safety net programs. The poor in the United States are less likely than the poor in other countries to leave poverty. On average, 28.6 percent of the United States poor are able to escape their economic situation, while in Sweden the rate is 36 percent. In Germany, the rate is 37 percent; in Canada, the rate is 42 percent; and in the Netherlands the rate is 44 percent.

Counting the poor has become a cynical art. Measures of poverty have

come and gone, many of them arbitrary from their inception. The current poverty level has never been permitted to adjust to cost of living increases and other impacts. The debate over defining poverty and who is poor has been used to limit the ability of public policy to address poverty in a meaningful way.

As William Greider has pointed out, "The effect of the poverty line is to obscure the existence of a vast pool of struggling families who are above the poverty line, who are not officially poor, and to exclude them from the political equation."

Further quoting, "Helping the poor is considered virtuous even among conservatives. Helping the nonpoor is considered wasteful or even fraudulent. The problem of poverty is presumed to reside in the poor people themselves, not in the structure of wages available in the private economy."

According to a recent study by the Economic Policy Institute, 29 percent of working families in the United States with one to three children under age 12 do not earn enough to afford basic necessities such as food, housing, health care, and child care, even during a period of national prosperity. Nearly one-third of families with incomes below twice the poverty threshold faced at least one critical hardship, like going without food, getting evicted, having to double up in housing with another family or not having access to medical care during an acute illness.

The report calculated a basic budget level for each State, the budget a family would need to afford food, housing, child care, health insurance, transportation, and utilities. Even for families that include a full-time worker, nearly one-quarter of the families below twice the poverty line face these problems.

Of families with incomes below the basic income line, half include a parent who worked full time, and nearly 60 percent are two-parent families. More than 75 percent are headed by a worker with a high school degree or more. About one-third live in the suburbs, one-third in the cities, and one-third in rural areas.

Just over half of all families living below the basic budget level are white families. However, about half of all black and Hispanic families fall below the basic budget levels.

No one argues for income equality in the sense we demand equality in polling places. Nevertheless, there is, somewhere, a line where economic inequality becomes incompatible with democracy. The marketplace makes no allowance for democracy, and there is no greater challenge to our democracy than economic injustice and poverty in the first place.

So out of concern for basic economic justice, out of the fundamental need for capitalism to balance production and consumption and a profound need to preserve our sense of Nation, we face no more critical task than shaping a national economic policy which addresses the issue of poverty.

The question of poverty and economic income inequality has moved center stage as, for the first time in a decade, America is mired in recession. And of course we know that when we talk recession overall we are talking serious depression for those at the lowest levels of our economic stratum.

More than 8 million Americans are now out of work. More than 1 million workers have lost their jobs since September 11. Our economy has been shedding 100,000 jobs a week. Two million workers will likely lose their unemployment insurance benefits in the first 6 months of this year. Ninety-four percent of those who lose benefits will not receive additional assistance.

It is extremely unfortunate that the President's budget slashes job training in 336 cities from \$225 million to \$45 million.

We have now experienced more than 13 consecutive months of industrial decline, the longest such period since the Great Depression. American consumers, which have accounted for two-thirds of our economic engine in recent years, have been staggered by the current crisis, and both the November and December retail sales have been characterized as dismal.

As usual, the most vulnerable are the hardest hit. Unemployment of African Americans and Hispanics have increased at least 50 percent faster than the national average. For African American teens, the increase is 400 percent faster. While the number of African Americans in poverty began to decrease in the last years of the period of economic expansion in the 1990s and the wage gap decreased during those recent years, the income gap has remained substantial.

The persistent racial inequalities and inequities are underlined by a recent study by Edward N. Wolff. Wolff points to the persistence of these inequalities and notes that even if we could immediately eliminate the racial income gap, it could take another two generations for the wealth gap to close.

Unemployment rates for women who are heads of household have soared. 200,000 single moms are scheduled to be dropped from Federal assistance in 2003.

Also soaring is the homeless rates. According to the Coalition for the Homeless, a record number of people, more than 29,000, were spending nights in shelters in New York during November, up from 8,000 in October.

Meanwhile, the so-called safety net, gutted by welfare reform, has begun to reveal fearsome gaps. Even before the downturn began, more than 100,000 families lost their income support because of time limits. In the first 3 years of TANF, 540,000 families had benefits terminated for not complying with program rules.

State reserves for income support programs are drying up rapidly. Illinois and Michigan are among states most at risk.

Food stamps have traditionally been one of the basic protections of the safe-

ty net. However, over the past few years participation rates have fallen sharply because of barriers to access.

One of the other basic fixtures of the safety net has been unemployment insurance. Benefit levels now replace only 33 percent of the coverage that average workers lost, down from 36 percent in 1990. The percentage of unemployed workers who actually get unemployment benefits has also declined over the past 40 years, peaking at 49 percent in 1975 and declining to a mere 37 percent in 2001.

We know that recessions are particularly cruel to State budgets. Those who have been following events in Illinois know that Medicaid is high on the endangered list. We need an economic stimulus to jump-start our economy, and we need it immediately.

While some talk about tax cuts which will primarily benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers, and do nothing for the bottom 75 percent, let me suggest that any serious economic stimulus package must consider and be focused on the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable among us.

The President's fiscal year 2003 budget calls for cutting job training and employment funding by almost \$700 million while unemployment is increasing.

The President's budget calls for reducing community development support by 28 percent while poor communities and programs for child care and social services are in crisis.

The President's budget proposes to cut home energy assistance by \$300 million compared to fiscal year 2002.

The President's budget cuts funding for JAIBG, which helps States improve facilities and services to incarcerated youth by 13.8 percent.

The President's budget makes the first of 10 annual \$780 million cuts to our teaching hospitals; and, to add insult to injury, then adds a 30 percent cut to a program which funds medical training at hospitals that specialize in the care of children.

The President's budget request reduces his own plan for prescription drug benefits from the \$48 billion he proposed last year to \$13.2 billion this year.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health would take a \$29 million hit, while the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will take a \$9 million hit.

Public housing will face a \$382 million cut along with the \$417 million cut for public housing repairs and \$268 million from the Community Development Block Grants.

□ 2215

Now is the time for some hard thinking about priorities and about cutting waste in government.

Here is what Vice Admiral Jack Shanahan, United States Navy, retired, former commander of the United States Second Fleet and head of the Military Advisory Committee of Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities

wrote about the President's budget on February 13. He said: "The decision to ask Congress to increase the Pentagon budget by \$48 billion or more may sound reasonable in light of America's ongoing war on terrorism, but the reality is that the Pentagon budget should actually be trimmed by 15 percent."

Further quoting: "To be sure, our military will require new tools to fight modern adversaries. The Pentagon needs more unmanned aircraft, better communications and reconnaissance technology, as well as more mobile weaponry.

"We need to spend more money on military personnel and ideas, as we create a force that is capable of a seamless transition from humanitarian activities to peacekeeping to actual combat and back again. This places a premium on the individual soldier who gets the job done with minimum loss of life on both sides, with minimum property damage and in the shortest possible time.

"But these new military expenditures can easily be paid for with money saved from eliminating outdated weapons from the Pentagon budget, wasteful expenditures that President Bush himself pledged to cut.

"None of the weapons that the administration reportedly wanted to eliminate prior to September 11, like the F-22 fighter jet, the Crusader artillery system, and the Comanche helicopter, would have been of any significant benefit to our troops in Afghanistan. Likewise, they will not be needed by our military personnel in any foreseeable conflict with our most likely adversaries.

"But the money that could be saved by cutting these Cold War weapons could definitely be put to good use. The administration is correct that America needs to spend more on shoring up national security. But rather than add to the Pentagon budget, President Bush should trim it of Cold War fat and apply the savings to our more expansive and pressing security needs."

Madam Speaker, we must provide protection for those at greatest risk of economic hardship: low wage, entry level and part-time workers, women, minorities, the underprivileged, small businesses, marginal communities and those who have lost their jobs.

Specifically, what does this mean? I believe it means raising the minimum wage to a livable wage. Obviously, there is never enough time to really talk totally about the minimum wage or the living wage movement. But suffice it to say that the living-wage movement has become one of the most potent and effective tools for attacking poverty.

Chicago and Cook County are just two of the more than 70 local units of government which have passed living-wage ordinances. We now have extensive research which shows that when the lowest-paid workers receive additional income, they spend those dollars

to meet their family's needs. This provides a boost to the local economy which more than offsets the increased salary costs.

Further research demonstrates that businesses do not flee these communities because of modest increases in wage costs, but are actually attracted to communities with healthy economies. Extending unemployment and medical benefits both with regards to time and eligibility has become a central feature of the current legislative initiative in the Congress and offers one of the fastest and most efficient means of stimulating the economy.

Providing direct loans and grants to small businesses affected by the September 11 terrorist attacks has become a hot topic of discussion, especially since the Congress passed the airline bailout.

I believe that it makes a lot of sense to look towards assisting small businesses which today generate the majority of jobs in our Nation. Reauthorizing a TANF program, which not only takes people off welfare, but takes people out of poverty, is one of the largest issues facing us this year.

The unfortunate fact is that welfare reform has been successful. Unfortunately, the problem is that it was never intended to meet the needs of the poor, but to shed public responsibility for addressing poverty.

Welfare rolls have declined, but many of those who have left TANF are in worse economic condition than they were before they left. The U.S. Conference of Mayors reports that emergency shelter requests in 27 cities have increased 13 percent over the last year, but the President's budget cuts public housing repairs \$417 million. That is 14.7 percent.

Real welfare reform must address, at a minimum, improving the safety net for children while helping parents meet work-related goals; empowering families to find resources and tools and make decisions needed to meet their needs and goals as a family; ensuring families with multiple barriers to employment and economic independence receive necessary services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment; revising the time limits on eligibility, as was emphasized by the just-completed National Governors Conference; redefining the goal of reform to reduce poverty, especially child poverty, not just caseloads.

We will never eliminate poverty until we recognize the need for a federally funded daycare program for children of all ages. Forty-nine States have child care costs greater than tuition to public colleges; yet quality day care is not only a critical prerequisite for parental employment, it is critical for healthy child development.

Finally, and critical for our growth as a Nation, is a system of national health care, including prescription drug coverage and the treatment of mental illness on par with all other illness. America is abuzz these days with

response to the new Denzel Washington movie "John Q" and how it relates to people's own experiences with paying for health care in America.

No nation in the world has the health care resources, the technology, the trained health care professionals of America. But our health care delivery system is broken and our priorities, especially our lack of focus on prevention, are sadly misplaced.

I hope that the result of the November election in Portland, Maine, will be a bellwether of things to come in health care. Portland voters passed a referendum on universal health care, despite the fact that opponents spent hundreds of thousands of dollars more than congressional candidates usually spend in Maine trying to defeat the measure. A single-payer, universal health care system would be more efficient, would cost less as a result of eliminating mountains of paperwork, would offer more choice and would provide coverage to every one of our people.

Integral to my dream, my vision for America, is an America where poverty and all of the social, moral, mental and physical ills associated with poverty are eradicated forever.

Of course, a part of that poverty syndrome is the fact that our prisons are filled to the hilt with individuals, 2 million of them. While we are only 5 percent of the world's population, we have 25 percent of the world's prison population.

The Justice Department has predicted that 630,000 of these individuals are going to be released from prison this year. About 30,000 of them will be in my State, the State of Illinois. Unfortunately, we have not prepared for them as they come back to neighborhoods and communities. So a good part of our attack on poverty has to be a serious look at our correctional system and a serious look at what it takes to reform, to rehabilitate and to prepare people for reentry into normal society once they are released from correctional facilities and institutions.

I introduced the week before last a bill, the Public Safety Ex-Offender Self-Sufficiency Act, that is designed to provide structured living arrangements for ex-offenders as they return home, an arrangement that is not designed to cost taxpayers a great deal of money. We use a creative approach to financing by creating a model like the low-income-housing tax credit program, where instead of credits on the basis of population, that we provide credits on the basis of the number of ex-offenders in a State.

Private developers are encouraged to develop housing. This bill calls for the development of 100,000 units over the next 5 years, the idea being that corporations who do this will get the benefit of their resource back within a 10-year period. They must hold the facilities at least for 15 years. Individuals will then have a place to live, a place to go, where they can also receive education, job training, skill development,

counseling for whatever their social or physical-medical problems may be, as well as health care and assistance with job placement.

I believe, Madam Speaker, that if America is to become the Nation that it has the potential of being, then we must seriously address the problems, needs, hopes, and aspirations of all our citizens, and even those who are mired down at the bottom.

I believe in the theory and the concept that a rising tide should lift all boats; and I am confident that as we lift and improve the lives of those at the bottom, as we help the American dream become more of a reality for all of our citizens, then America becomes that Nation that Langston Hughes talked about when he suggested that we ought to let America be America again, the land that it has never been, but yet must be.

In all of our greatness, we have not realized the fulfillment of our potential. It is my hope that as we deal with the issues of poverty and the issues of those who are the most needy among us, we will lift America to heights that it has never seen.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BALDACCI (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. WATERS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCINNIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GANSKE, for 5 minutes, February 27 and March 1.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, February 27.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A bill and a joint resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 980. An act to provide for the improvement of the safety of child restraints in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution congratulating the United States Military Academy at West Point on its bicentennial anniversary, and commending its outstanding contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 27, 2002, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5547. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Rules Relating to Intermediaries of Commodity Interest Transactions (RIN: 3038-AB56) received February 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5548. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Listing Standards and Conditions for Trading Security Futures Products (RIN: 3038-AB87) received February 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5549. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Sulfuryl Fluoride; Temporary Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-301166A; FRL-6823-4] (RIN: 2070-AC18) received February 5, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5550. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Bentazon; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-301215; FRL-6820-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received February 05, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5551. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act which occurred in the Department of the Air Force, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

5552. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the transport of a chemical warfare agent, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1512(4); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5553. A letter from the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that certain major defense acquisition programs have breached the unit cost by more than 15 percent, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433(e)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5554. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the decision to convert to contractor performance by the private sector the Transportation function at NADEP Cherry Point, NC, which was found to be the most cost-effective, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5555. A letter from the Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on assistance provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) to civilian sporting events in support of essential security and safety; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5556. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's report of activities for calendar year 2001; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5557. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Home Mortgage Disclosure [Regulation C; Docket No. R-1001] received February 19, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5558. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the Yucca Mountain site has met recommended approval for the development of a repository for the geological disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high level nuclear waste from the Nation's defense activities, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10134 nt.; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5559. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress Regarding Number of Chimpanzees and Funding for Care of Chimpanzees, as required by Public Law 106-551; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5560. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District [CA 242-0316; FRL-7134-1] received January 31, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5561. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permit Program; State of New York [NY002; FRL-7137-7] received January 31, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5562. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan; Wyoming; Revisions to Air Pollution Regulations [WY001-0007a, WY-001-0008a, WY-001-0009a; FRL-7130-3] received January 31, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5563. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Allocation of Essential-use Allowances for Calendar Year 2002; and Extension of the De Minimis Exemption for Essential Laboratory and Analytical Uses through Calendar Year 2005 [FRL-7140-5] (RIN: 2060-AJ81) received February 5, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.