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MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Wanda Neiman, 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 and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2110. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

H.R. 5104. An act to extend the Protect America Act of 2007 for 15 days.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5140. An act to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 30, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2110. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4848. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Minimal-Risk Regions; Identification of Ruminants and Processing and Importation of Commodities" (Docket No. APHIS-2006-0026) received on January 23, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4849. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Standard Requirements for Live Vaccines" (Docket No. APHIS-2006-0079) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4850. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Armenia to the List of Regions Where African Swine Fever Exists" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0142) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4851. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the continuation of the national emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4852. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving the export of two Boeing 777-200ER passenger aircraft to the Kumho Asiana Group; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4853. A communication from the Senior Vice President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2007 Sub-Saharan Africa Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4854. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to License Exceptions TMP and BAG: Expansion of Eligible Items" (RIN0694-AD72) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4855. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Seabird Avoidance Measures for the Alaska Fisheries" (RIN0648-AV38) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4856. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2008 Final Harvest Specifications for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD68) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4857. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4858. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing activities during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4859. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the flood damage reduction project at the Santa Barbara Streams in California; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4860. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a feasibility study that was undertaken to evaluate flood damage reduction opportunities for Swope Park Industrial Area, Blue River Basin, Kansas City, Missouri; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4861. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the project at Tanque Verde Creek, Arizona; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4862. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisit User Fee Program for Medicare Survey and Certification Activities" (RIN0938-AP22) received on January 23, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4863. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Necessary to Facilitate Electronic Tax Administration" ((RIN1545-BA96)(TD 9375)) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4864. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "ANPRM: Guidance Regarding Marketing of Refund Anticipation Loans and Other Products" ((RIN1545-BH12)(REG-136596-07)) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4865. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure 2008-12" (Rev. Proc. 2008-12) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4866. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2008-7-2008-9); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4867. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to assistance given to Eurasia during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4868. A communication from the Secretary, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's competitive sourcing activities during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4869. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Head Start Program" (RIN0970-AB90) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4870. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Advisory Committee's Annual Report on Institutional Quality and Integrity for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4871. A communication from the Director, Financial Management, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Comptrollers' General Retirement System for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4872. A communication from the Acting Chief of Staff, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to financial integrity for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4873. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's financial report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4874. A communication from the Deputy Director for Administration and Information Management, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the competitions initiated during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4875. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "A Call for Stewardship: Enhancing the Federal Government's Ability to Address Key Fiscal and Other 21st Century Challenges"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4876. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel and Designated Reporting Official, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Deputy Director for State, Local and Tribal Affairs, received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4877. A communication from the Co-Chief Privacy Officers, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to activities that affect privacy; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4878. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing efforts of fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4879. A communication from the Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of action on a nomination for the position of Secretary of Veterans Affairs, received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 2572. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for bonus depreciation or an additional minimum tax credit

in lieu of such bonus depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2573. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a program of mental health care and rehabilitation for veterans for service-related post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety disorder, or a related substance use disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2574. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the use of qualified mortgage revenue bonds for refinancing mortgages and to provide a temporary increase in the volume cap for such bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 2575. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on the transfer of entitlement to basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2576. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for qualified expenditures paid or incurred to replace certain wood stoves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2577. A bill to establish background check procedures for gun shows; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2578. A bill to temporarily delay application of proposed changes to Medicaid payment rules for case management and targeted case management services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2579. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in American society, from the colonial period to today; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 2580. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the participation in higher education of, and to increase opportunities in employment for, residents of rural areas; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BYRD (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2581. A bill to designate as wilderness additional National Forest System lands in the State of West Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. Res. 437. A resolution establishing a special committee of the Senate to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BYRD (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 438. A resolution authorizing the printing with illustrations of a document entitled "Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, 1867-2008"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 358

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that food that contains product from a cloned animal be labeled accordingly, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 714

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 714, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally.

S. 960

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 960, a bill to establish the United States Public Service Academy.