

was called upon by governments from Australia to Norway to advise on local economic development policies. In a particularly fitting move, the year he retired from UW, the National Rural Development Partnership established the Ron Shaffer Award, to be given annually for outstanding collaboration in rural America.

But I suspect that none of the honors he won mattered as much to Ron as the love and companionship of his family and friends. They loved his decency, his compassion, and his willingness to lead a patient ear. They admired him for the courage with which he handled his diagnosis of ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. It was typical of Ron that he used his illness as an opportunity to advocate for others afflicted with this terrible disease—after all, he spent his life helping others. He will be sorely missed as a husband, a father, a friend, and a deeply good and giving man. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 9:55 a.m., 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. 841. An act to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 49 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee, in addition to Mr. SAXTON of New Jersey, appointed January 20, 2005: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAUL of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. MCCOTTER of Michigan, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HINCHEY of New York, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 539. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide the protections of habeas corpus for certain incapacitated individuals whose life is in jeopardy, and for other purposes.

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-1202. A communication from the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Audit Report Register for the period ending September 30, 2004; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1203. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's 2004 Annual Program Performance Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1204. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Special Medical Advisory Group's Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1205. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Redesignation of the City of Weirton Including the Clay and Butler Magisterial Districts SO₂ Nonattainment Area and Approval of the Maintenance Plan; Correction" (FRL No. 7882-4) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1206. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference for South Dakota" (FRL No. 7878-6) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1207. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Arizona" (FRL No. 7875-2) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1208. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Delegation of Authority" (FRL No. 7880-4) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1209. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Nashville, Tennessee" (FRL No. 7881-7) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1210. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 7877-4) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1211. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Kern County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 7878-3) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1212. A communication from the Director, Office of Human Capital Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary of Energy, received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1213. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, the Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1214. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's investigative report of the Forest Service fatalities that occurred in the Cramer Fire in the Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho on July 22, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1215. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's notification of its 2005 compensation program adjustments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1216. A communication from the Chief, Program Design Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Stamp Program High Performance Bonuses" received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1217. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clofentezine; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 7699-8) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1218. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenbuconazole; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 7699-2) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1219. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the State of Michigan, et al.; Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2004-2005 Crop Year" (FVO4-930-2 FR) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1220. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pistachios Grown in California; Establishment of Continuing Assessment Rate and Reporting Requirements" (FVO4-983-2 FR) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1221. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sweet Cherries Grown in Designated Counties in Washington, Establishment of Minimum Size and Maturity Requirements for Lightly Colored Sweet Cherry Varieties" (FV04-923-1 FR) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1222. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Products in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage of Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2004-2005 Marketing Year" (FV04-985-2 IFR-A) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1223. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment" (LS-04-09) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1224. A communication from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower and Personnel, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notification of a decision to implement performance by the Most Efficient Organization (MEO) for Public Works Center Maintenance and Repair of Building and Structures in San Diego, CA.; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1225. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Inspector General's report on inventory of commercial and inherently government activities for fiscal year 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1226. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Government Source Inspection Requirements" (DFARS Case 2002-D032) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1227. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bonds" (DFARS Case 2003-D033) re-

ceived on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1228. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Resolving Tax Problems" (DFARS Case 2003-D032) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1229. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2004 of the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1230. A communication from the Federal Liaison Office, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office" (RIN0651-AB86) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1231. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7A of the Clayton Act; Notice" (RIN3084-AA91) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1232. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Premerger Notification; Reporting and Waiting Period Requirements; Final Rule" (RIN3084-AA91) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1233. 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 "Technical Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations" (RIN0694-AD32) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1234. 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 "Denied Persons and Specially Designated Nationals" (RIN0694-AD43) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1235. 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 "Revision of License Exception TMP for Activities by Organizations Working to Relieve Human Suffering in Sudan" (RIN0694-AD38) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1236. A communication from the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2006-2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1237. A communication from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Trust's operations and financial condition; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1238. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Branch, Customs and Border

Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Categories of Archaeological Material from the Prehispanic Cultures of the Republic of El Salvador" (RIN1505-AB56) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1239. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wage Credits for Veterans and Members of the Uniformed Services" (RIN0960-AF90) received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1240. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare Contracting Reform: A Blueprint for a Better Medicare" received on March 7, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 55. A bill to adjust the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park in the State of Colorado (Rept. No. 109-19).

S. 57. A bill to further the purposes of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000 (Rept. No. 109-20).

S. 276. A bill to revise the boundary of the Wind Cave National Park in the State of South Dakota (Rept. No. 109-21).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 301. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont (Rept. No. 109-22).

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. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FRIST, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 544. A bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely affect patient safety; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 545. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create Lifetime Savings Accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 546. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for retirement savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 547. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for employer retirement savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):