

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 SO<sub>2</sub> 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.