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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

SENATE—*Tuesday, January 27, 1998*

The 27th day of January being the day prescribed by S. Con. Res. 68 and S. J. Res. 39 for the meeting of the 2d session of the 105th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol at 12 noon.

The Senate was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order. The Chaplain will now deliver the opening prayer.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, by Your grace You guided the founding of this Nation to be a demonstration of democracy under Your sovereignty. We praise You for Your timely inspiration and interventions all through our history. Our motto, "In God we trust," and our affirmation, "One Nation under God," express our sure confidence and the source of our courage.

As we begin the work of this second session of the 105th Congress, we commit our lives to You anew. We thank You for the privilege of pressing forward to the next phase of Your vision for our beloved Nation. We open our minds to think Your thoughts. Give us Your perspective on the problems we face and Your power to solve them.

Help the Senators to listen to one another so their debate on issues will be a dialogue leading to creative resolutions combining the best of the supernatural wisdom You provide through many minds.

We turn our eyes to You and to the strategic work that You have given this Senate to do. Our times are in Your hand; in mutual trust we stand. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. Welcome back, Mr. President. It is a pleasure to see you presiding in the Chair as we begin this new year.

Mr. President, I say to the Chaplain, we look forward to hearing your prayers throughout the year.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum in order to ascertain the presence of a quorum to begin the second session of the 105th Congress.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1]

Allard	Grassley	Moynihan
Coverdell	Hutchinson	Sessions
Daschle	Lott	Stevens
Enzi	McConnell	Thurmond

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). A quorum is not present. The clerk will call the names of the absent Senators.

The legislative clerk resumed the call of the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1]

Abraham	Durbin	Kerry
Ashcroft	Faircloth	Kyl
Bennett	Feinstein	Leahy
Bingaman	Ford	Mack
Bond	Glenn	Nickles
Burns	Gorton	Reed
Byrd	Gramm	Reid
Campbell	Grams	Roth
Chafee	Gregg	Smith, (NH)
Coats	Hagel	Smith, (OR)
Cochran	Helms	Snowe
Collins	Hollings	Specter
Craig	Inhofe	Warner
Domenici	Kempthorne	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, a quorum having been ascertained, I send a resolution to the desk informing the President that a quorum is present in the Senate and ask that it be considered and agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 164) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 164

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the resolution, the majority and minority leaders are appointed as members of the committee.

INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now send a second resolution to the desk informing the House that a quorum is present and ask that it be considered and agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 165) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 165

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join a committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. this evening, Tuesday, January 27, 1998.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a member of the Senate on the floor.

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

APPOINTMENTS MADE DURING THE SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. I now send to the desk a list of appointments that were made during the sine die adjournment of the Senate and ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

To the Congressional Award Board, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, as amended, Martis James Davis, of New York (Nov. 21, 1997).

To the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare, pursuant to Public Law 105–33, the Senator from Texas (Mr. Gramm), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Frist), Illene Gordon, of Mississippi, and Deborah Steelman, of Virginia (Nov. 25, 1997).

To the Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power, pursuant to Public Law 105–56, J. James Exon, of Nebraska (Dec. 12, 1997).

To the National Council of the Arts, pursuant to Public Law 105–83, Richard J. Durbin, of Illinois (Dec. 31, 1997).

To the Social Security Advisory Board, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, Sylvester J. Schieber, of Maryland (Jan. 19, 1998).

To the Congressional Award Board, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, Clinton Bristow, Jr., of Mississippi (Jan. 20, 1998).

To the Census Monitoring Board, pursuant to Public Law 105–119, Joe D. Whitley, of Georgia, and Max W. Williams, of Mississippi (Jan. 20, 1998).

To the Congressional Award Board, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, Felix Sanchez, of Washington, D.C. (Jan. 26, 1998).

WELCOME, COLLEAGUES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, first and foremost, I welcome our colleagues back to the Senate from what I hope has been a restful and a beneficial period of time. I think it has been very good for the Senators to be able to spend some time with their families, be able to perhaps read a book, to work with their constituencies, and in many cases look into very important foreign policy and international issues. I know this has been a very good time for our colleagues to do some things that were long overdue, and I hope they enjoyed and benefited from it.

SECOND SESSION OF THE 105TH CONGRESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I also hope that all Members are ready for what I hope will be a very productive second session of the 105th Congress. I have spent some time with the distinguished Democratic leader. We have talked in general about bills we want to try to consider before the Easter recess in April, and of course we have gone over the schedule just for this week. We have a number of very important legislative items that we need to consider before the Easter recess, including, I hope, even a budget resolution. I think it is important this year that we not go after April the 15th to take up a budget resolution. I will be talking further to the chairman of the Budget Committee and the ranking member and the leadership to make sure that we are all in agreement in that effort.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the list of potential floor items and a calendar for the first week of the session be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIST OF POTENTIAL ITEMS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED IN THE SENATE PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED EASTER RECESS

Auto choice bill.
Budget resolution.
Campaign Fin. Reform.
Caribbean Basin Initiative.
China/Religious Persecution.
Cloning Bill.
Coverdell Education Savings accounts.
IMF.
Iran Proliferation Sanctions Act.
ISTEA.
Medicare Private Practice.
Mexico De-certification.
NATO enlargement.
Powder Cocaine Penalties Act.
Property Rights.
PUHCA reform.
Ronald Reagan national airport bill.
Securities Reform.
Supplemental Appropriations.

SENATE SCHEDULE—JANUARY 28–30

Wednesday, Jan. 28:
Special Orders; Policy Lunches; Vote on Judicial Nominations: Aiken, Silverman, and Story.
Thursday Jan. 29:
Ronald Reagan National Airport bill.
Friday, Jan. 30:
Senate not in session.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, no legislative or executive business will be transacted during today's session. Therefore, no votes will occur during the session of the Senate today. We will recess mid to late afternoon to reconvene at 8:30 p.m. this evening in the Chamber. All Members are asked to be in the Chamber at approximately 8:30 in order that we can go over as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the President's State of the Union Address beginning at 9 p.m. this evening.

During tomorrow's session we will consider three judicial nominations, those being Barry Silverman to be a circuit judge for the ninth circuit, Richard Story, to be a district judge for the northern district of Georgia, and Ann Aiken, to be a district judge in Oregon. We hope to enter into a time agreement of approximately 2 hours, with rollcall votes expected on each nomination. Therefore, there could be three votes tomorrow, Wednesday. In fact, I think the Members should expect that there will be three votes.

Then on Thursday of this week we hope to consider the Ronald Reagan airport bill which is presently in the Commerce Committee. Amendments could be offered. Therefore, votes can be expected to occur on that item on Thursday of this week.

The Senate will not be in session on Friday. Following the Senate's consideration of the Ronald Reagan bill, the Senate would proceed over until Monday, February 2nd. The schedule for Monday will be announced later in the week. However, no votes will occur during the session on Monday. We do expect votes, of course, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week.

We will be talking to committee chairmen, sponsors of bills and with the Democratic leadership to decide exactly what bills could come up. We are considering possibly the PUHCA legislation, the Public Utilities Holding Company Act modifications. We are still considering a cloning bill that I believe could be considered. We have several others that we are considering, as well.

Next week we expect to take up the FEC, the Federal Election Commission nominees, the nomination of Mr. Satcher to be the Surgeon General, and possibly two more Federal judges that are now going through the process of being cleared.

I do want to say, again, Mr. President, I appreciate the year we had last year. I thought we had a good year. I thought we accomplished a great deal for the American people, most of the time with very little rancor. I want us to continue to be able to work together for the interests of the people and do it in a way where Members are not exhausted and they can do their work during the daylight instead of always at night.

I want to thank those of you that work for the Senate here in the Chamber. You do outstanding work and we quite often don't thank you sufficiently for the way you help us keep things running smoothly doing the people's business here in the Senate.

I do look forward to a very active year even though we may have around 100 legislative days—because of the necessity of adjourning early in October for the election. There are several things we need to do and we will do for the best interests of the American people. I look forward to working with the Senate and working with the leadership on both sides of the aisle.

SECOND SESSION OF THE 105TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I welcome back the majority leader and again wish him a happy New Year and commend him for his leadership. During the past 3 months, when we have not been here, I have seen him on several public appearances and, as always, he has been articulate and very forthcoming with regard to the schedule and our plans for the coming weeks. I welcome the opportunity to work closely

with him as we pursue our national agenda, and appreciate very much the cooperation he has already demonstrated in helping Senators make plans both in terms of days, as well as weeks, ahead. I trust the past 3 months have been productive and enjoyable, Mr. President, and I expect it has provided us with rest and the perspective to fulfill our obligations now.

It is obvious we return under very difficult circumstances. Allegations have been made against the President and have been vehemently denied. The legal process continues, flawed as it may be. While the circumstances may be extraordinary, the work of this Government must go on. The American system is uniquely constructed to withstand the winds of controversy and crisis which howl throughout history, and this moment is no exception. Important matters are at hand, dealing with both foreign and domestic policy, and the American people have a right to insist that their leaders continue to give those matters their full attention.

Congress has a clear responsibility—a duty and an obligation—to go about our work on behalf of the American people. Despite allegations, investigations, and obvious distractions, our country would be ill-served if we were to allow interruption in the steady function of Government or the remarkable progress that we have made on matters of great importance to our Nation.

Democratic Senators begin this year with a true sense of accomplishment over what we have achieved and a sense of purpose directed toward the challenges ahead. We need to continue the economic momentum born of the 1993 budget plan, a momentum that will propel us in 1998 to the first balanced budget in over 30 years, and our first opportunity in our lifetime to reduce the accumulated debt.

South Dakotans, like all Americans, have made clear their expectations. Having just returned from home, my conversations with South Dakotans remain clear and well understood. South Dakotans have urged us to work together, to continue to demonstrate that democracy can be both responsive and effective in addressing the challenges that lie ahead. They say, build on the extraordinary budgetary and economic record of the last 5 years, pay off the debt, solve the Social Security and Medicare problems we face. Remember that 42 million of us have no health insurance—find a way to solve that national embarrassment. Remember, above all, in this new age of information, that education, beginning virtually at birth, is one of the most important responsibilities of government at every level. There is so much to be done: Improve wages and child care, fix our political finance system that is broken and in great need of repair, be a leader to the world.

New and old democracies around the world look to us for leadership, and there is no one else. In Iraq and Bosnia, in Europe and Asia, America's leadership is needed now more than ever. That is the message given to me by South Dakotans back home over and over again. Their wisdom dictates our collective response.

Now is the time to go to work. As the majority leader has already indicated, we have very few days in this session of Congress. We must approach our work with urgency and with energy.

We must make the most of each one. Over the past few months, Democrats in the Senate and House, working with the administration, have built a legislative agenda that addresses many of the challenges our country must face. It will build on the themes that we hear tonight in the State of the Union Message. It represents the legislative embodiment of the priorities contained in the President's budget to be submitted next week.

So, again, I look forward to working closely with the majority leader. We will all certainly work with our Republican colleagues, because we believe this can be a most productive session. We begin today by extending a hand of partnership and a sincere hope for real success. I thank, again, the majority leader for offering me the opportunity to respond to his kind remarks.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 1530

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills due for a second reading. I ask that the title of the first bill be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1530) to resolve ongoing tobacco litigation, to reform the civil justice system responsible for adjudicating tort claims against companies that manufacture tobacco products, and establish a national tobacco policy for the United States that will decrease youth tobacco use and reduce the marketing of tobacco products to young Americans.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to further consideration of this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 2709

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the second bill be read the second time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2709) to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles, and to implement the obligations of the United States under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this item at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. GREGG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. I understand we are in morning business and that I have 20 minutes under the order, is that correct?

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be a period for the transaction of the morning business, not to exceed the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request? I will be very brief.

Mr. GREGG. Yes, I yield to the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might be recognized for 10 minutes following the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I ask to modify that by allowing Senator HELMS to speak for a period of 3 minutes prior to my speaking.

Mr. LEAHY. I certainly have no objection to that, Mr. President. I see the distinguished Chairman on the floor. After the distinguished Senator from North Carolina and the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Carolina is recognized for 3 minutes.

MRS. ALICE WYNNE GATSIS SPEAKS ON THE 10TH AMENDMENT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the North Carolina General Assembly embarked in 1997 on a significant course—that of inviting some of our State's best-known and best-qualified citizens to address joint sessions of the legislature's house and senate. Dr. Billy Graham, for example, made a remarkable and unforgettable appearance during the year.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina General Assembly's Select Committee on Federal Education grants heard a splendid address by a prominent and

learned North Carolina lady, Mrs. Alice Wynne Gatsis, of Rocky Mount, whose distinguished husband is a retired general of the U.S. Army, Andrew J. Gatsis.

General and Mrs. Gatsis are stout-hearted defenders of the U.S. Constitution. They are exceedingly knowledgeable about the perils confronting this Nation as a result of constant tampering with the intent and the meaning of the Constitution. In short, Alice Wynne Gatsis and her husband understand the miracle of America.

That, Mr. President, is why the North Carolina General Assembly's Select Committee on Federal Education Grants invited Mrs. Gatsis to address the committee on November 10 of last year.

Mr. President, I have in hand the text of Mrs. Gatsis' address and, being enormously impressed with her remarks, I have decided to share them with Senators and others who read the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of Mrs. Gatsis' address be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ALICE WYNNE GATSIS—NOVEMBER 10, 1997—SPEECH TO THE N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL EDUCATION GRANTS

NOTE: For purposes of definition, and the benefit of any egalitarians among us, I will be referring to man and men generically in the sense of man being the human race—it is not my intention to slight the ladies.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have been invited to speak this morning on the Tenth Amendment, that heart of the U.S. Constitution which says, "The powers not delegated by the Constitution or prohibited by it to the States are reserved to the states, respectively or to the people."

You may be asking yourselves, busy people that you are, an important committee with an important mission, why this subject at this time?

It seems to me that every now and then in a nation there comes a time when there is a need for restoration, a resetting of the pillars that are the foundation of all that is great in America. It must be apparent to many in both public and private life that the time has come.

It must be apparent, as well, that for some time an evolutionary process of unconstitutional usurpation of power has escalated to an alarming degree, and in spite of the law of the government (the Constitution) which forbids it.

All aspects of the domestic affairs of the people have become a federal concern to the point where we now have a president and congressmen, and, yes, innumerable bureaucrats, bureaucrats who appear to be accountable to nobody, addressing daily the domestic affairs of the people from soup to nuts.

It was not pleasing to hear Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, say, at her confirmation hearings in the first Clinton administration, that the President views the states as "laboratories" for the federal government. Her statement represents the apotheosis of many years of usurpation and preemption which has taken place in all administrations, not just the Clinton administration, for the last fifty years. It has slipped into our great free system on quiet little feet, taking a step forward and a step back but steadily advancing in the path toward centralizing and unifying the divided and enumerated powers which have made us a free people. There are reasons innumerable that such unlawful inroads have been made, perhaps federal money, perhaps false philanthropy, perhaps expediency. It is not necessary to engage in the "politically correct" subjective analysis of "why." Objective judgment reveals that the problem exists and must be addressed, if the first great republic in history is to be the inherited blessing of our descendants.

Attention to the 10th amendment is growing as its importance cannot be overestimated. What would the system be like without it? Where would you be?

The founders were not ignorant men; they drew on their knowledge of Greek and Roman law, the American colonial experience, the English legacy of common law and checks upon power, the Christian theories of natural law and then they added that best and newest ingredient, government at the local level. State legislators sit at the pinnacle close to the people with their powers enumerated over all domestic law. There is no finer elective position in the country. The authority of state legislators, faithfully executed has power in many ways to keep America stable.

Thankfully, it can be said that the 200 year old Constitution stands, relatively unchanged, amended only 17 times since the Bill of Rights. Within it, the 10th Amendment, in spite of assaults against it, stands unchanged too, because when Con-cons and conferences of the States come along, the people realize that their Constitution is endangered and combine to preserve it.

One of the strongest reasons for defeating the Equal Rights Amendment, once the emotional aspects of it were put in perspective, was that it was a major 10th amendment issue, the second part of this amendment transferred all authority over the domestic affairs of the nation to the Federal level. Not everyone realized that this was the true goal but constitutionalists did.

Standing in the way of ratification of the United Nations Treaty on the Political Rights of Women and the U.N. Treaty on the Rights of the Child is the Tenth Amendment.

The discredited health plan of the first Clinton administration ran into roadblocks as the bevy of lawyers assigned to the health care commission were told, "You can't do that because of the 10th amendment."

The recent Supreme Court ruling that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is unconstitutional, drove a dagger into the heart of some conservatives who will bend the Constitution a bit if their issue is at stake, but Religious Freedom Restoration Act really is unconstitutional. The ruling of the court made it clear that the enforcement power of the 14th amendment does not override the broad powers of the 10th.

One great ally of the Tenth Amendment is Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He has enunciated hard nosed positions limiting federal power. Writing about him, Joseph Sobran said, "In the 1995 Term Limits Case, he insisted on the pertinence of the Tenth Amendment and added a brilliant new twist to the debate. The Tenth not only limits the federal government to its enumerated powers, he argued, it reserves to the states and to the people all powers not specifically denied to them."

The clear purpose of the founders when they produced the U.S. Constitution was to create a federal government with strictly limited powers. It was the states who created the federal government not the other way around. Their shared attitude was best expressed by Thomas Jefferson when he said, "In questions of power then, let no more be said of faith in man, but bind him down with the chains of the Constitution." Also he said, after reading the new constitution, which he, of course, had no part in writing, "I assume that if the federal government were to be involved in education, there would have to be a constitutional amendment." There has been no constitutional amendment in this area, because it is understood that the American people do not want education transferred to the federal level. They are the rightful authorities over the education of their children; their authority is protected by the 10th amendment and state legislators are obligated to uphold that right—no where in the Constitution is "here-in granted" for the federal government to make laws about education and no where is there authority for legislators to transfer *voluntarily* their enumerated power to another branch of government.

There are those who would, if possible, scrap the Constitution. They have openly said so; they are prominent people, known public figures. One of their spokesmen, Professor James McGregor Burns said it, during the observance of the 200th anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution. I thought it a strange way to celebrate this occasion, but he said "let's face reality, the framers have simply been too shrewd for us. They have out witted us. They designed separated institutions that cannot be unified by mechanical linkages, frail bridges, tinkering. If we are to turn the founders upside down, to put together what they put asunder, we must directly confront the constitutional structure which they erected." This quote comes from page 160 of Professor Burns book *Reforming American Government*.

Threads of this agenda from *Reforming American Government* surface from time to time. For instance in Newt Gingrich's new contract with America 2000. He wants that year's Republican candidates for the House, Senate and Presidency to run as a team committed to enacting a 10 point contract with America. He foresees a parliamentary-like campaign in which the entire national party runs on a unified platform. This has the net effect of solidifying allegiance to the Party and diluting allegiance to the Constitution and Congressional constituents. The Contracts with America are 10th amendment issues, because they generally address domestic affairs—but never mind that—"conservative" activists are already trying to get their issues into the Contract.

Identifying the undermining of local state government, several legislatures have passed 10th amendment resolutions, and more of them will be as evidence mounts that the federal government is out of control, and that ignoring the oath that public servants take is dangerous to the liberty of all.

State legislators are so important. You are not only, by decree, closest to the people, along with county and city government, but you come from among us—the people. You are our neighbors, our friends and part of the businesses and activities that make up our various communities. Any qualified citizen can sit in the halls of the legislatures if fellow citizens so elect. Once that happens and the oath is taken, you become a citizen-legislator who can represent the rest of us only

by strict adherence to the law of the Constitution. Since the majority are not always right, that adherence to the Constitution assures justice for all. The 10th amendment, then, protects the law-makers and the people to whom they are bound. This is an arrangement worth preserving.

Why then have state legislators been allowing their just powers to slip away? Federal bureaucracies are doing more and more unconstitutional runs around them.

It is time for a wake up call. As this committee prepares to take up its duties, more end runs are occurring in Washington. On Friday president Clinton traded off some of his national education standards for a couple of years, and the House voted overwhelmingly to fund charter schools by one hundred million dollars, giving them a certain autonomy if they teach performance-based education. The President, who has no enumerated authority, any more than Congress does, over education has highly endorsed charter schools as long as they teach national standards. The net effect will be the nationalizing, long term, of the school system, putting it into the hands of special interest private boards, gradually absorbing current public and private schools.

So much for elected local school boards, so much for local legislators if they let it continue.

The more these federal intrusions into education create massive failures in education, the more bent these federal "nannies" seem to be on more of the same.

Will state legislators seize the initiatives which are rightfully and lawfully theirs? If they do not, as I have said before, they will end up figure heads in a regional satrapy run from somewhere on high.

Never before in recent times has the choice been so well defined—On the one side is the Republic of the United States of America a nation under God as defined by the Declaration of Independence, a nation governed by God's law as incorporated into the Constitution. It establishes limited government, and divided powers. Most of all it leaves citizens free to guide and direct their own lives. God given rights are unalienable and may not be taken away; they are eternal.

At the opposite end of the spectrum is the United Nations Charter which enshrines the religion of man (generically speaking) as the source of rights. Man through government can give and take away rights from other men, women and children. It is government farthest from the people run by councils of "wise" men. We will have to choose whom we will serve. Knowing that where the spirit of God is, there is the spirit of liberty. I trust that citizen and legislator alike will not remove the ancient landmarks which our fathers have set.

In summary, this select committee has some very serious matters to investigate, probably the tip of the iceberg—in an ongoing chore. I wish you well and hope that you will ever keep before you the basic truths of the 10th amendment base. The law is on your side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield for a moment for a unanimous-consent request?

Mr. GREGG. Yes.

INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after the Senator from Vermont takes his time, I be allowed to have 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE BUDGET SURPLUS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, this evening we will hear from the President of the United States in his State of the Union Address. We live in a time where the United States is extraordinarily fortunate. We are at peace. We are a Nation that has great prosperity. We are a Nation with a balanced budget for the first time in 25 years. This is all good news. But there looms on the horizon a fiscal policy which, if we do not address in the coming near term, will dramatically undermine our Nation and make it difficult to pass on to our children a country of prosperity. That, of course, is the pending retirement, beginning in the latter part of the next decade, of the postwar baby-boom generation, that huge demographic group of which I and the President are members, which has impacted this country this very decade in some unique way, and which in the next two decades will, as a result of their retiring have an impact of basically bankrupting this country in the Social Security system, which so many seniors rely on, if we do not address these concerns.

The opportunity to address these concerns is today. It is much like that oil filter ad, "You can pay me now or you can pay me later." The opportunity to make changes in our Social Security system, which will allow for its solvency, allow it to be a strong and vibrant part of our fabric as a Nation, the opportunity for those changes to be effective and to be done reasonably, is much better today than if we wait for 4, 5, or 10 years.

In addition, of course, as we head into a time of surplus, there will be, as a basic policy in this Chamber and in the House, over the next few months a question of how we use that surplus. What is generating the surplus should be the first question. What is generating the surplus is the Social Security trust fund. For the foreseeable future, the extent to which we generate a surplus at the Federal level will be as a result of the fact that more people are paying Social Security taxes than are taking benefits out of the Social Security trust fund. It is not a surplus generated, therefore, as a result of the day-to-day operation of Government being in surplus, of having raised more tax revenues for the day-to-day operation of the Government—defense, education, environmental protection, building roads, for those accounts income surplus; rather, it is a surplus generated by the fact that people who pay payroll taxes are paying more in payroll taxes to support people on retirement under Social Security than they need to.

That should be retained as a primary point as we move down the road of addressing the surplus issue. Therefore, I would like to posture that if we are going to be responsible as legislators and as keepers of our Nation's future, we have an obligation to address the issue of Social Security and address it in the short-term, rather than to wait. I also would like to suggest a manner in which we might consider addressing it. One of our goals, as we look at the issue of the surplus, should be to give people tax relief. Another goal, as we look at the issue of the surplus, should be to pay down the Federal debt. A third goal, as we look at the issue of addressing how we are going to deal with the surplus, should be to increase the savings of the American people. A fourth goal should be to assure the solvency of the most critical Federal program that we have, the Social Security system.

All four of those goals can be significantly advanced if we intelligently approach the use of the surplus and apply it to benefit the Social Security system. How can we do that?

Well, the best way would be to cut the Social Security tax. This is the most regressive tax we have. It is also the taxes generating the surplus. If we were to reduce the Social Security tax so that the average wage earner, instead of paying approximately 7½ percent, would end up paying 6½ percent; it would mean that the average wage earner in this country would receive the benefits directly of a tax cut, the purpose of which would be to refund to them the surplus which is being generated by the Federal Government.

In such a tax cut, if we were to say to the folks receiving it, the wage earners, the people paying the payroll tax, if we were to say that the tax cut must be saved in an account designated in your name, a personal savings account, such as an IRA account, then we would be accomplishing a second goal, which would be to allow individuals who are seeing retirement coming at them to begin to specifically have an account in the Social Security structure which would be in their name and on which they could participate in the investment decisions, and which would most likely return a much better return than the present Social Security system returns, and which would give them an actual savings vehicle.

Third, the practical effect of cutting the tax for people who are wage earners and allowing them to save would be that we would begin the process of refunding the liability in the Social Security system. The Social Security system today has a $3 trillion unfunded liability. So that as the postwar baby-boom generation hits the system in 2008, which is the first year when the system starts to pay more out than it takes in, there becomes a liability that

must be paid for through either increased taxes or by reducing the benefit structure of approximately $3 trillion. Well, to the extent that we can encourage people to save by cutting their taxes today and putting those tax cuts into savings accounts, we can significantly reduce the unfunded liability of the Social Security system, which will, in turn, reduce the debt of the Federal Government, which would be another goal in using the surplus that we presently are confronting, or which we are soon to have.

So it is great news that we have this surplus. After 25 years, it is extraordinary news. But the proper management of this surplus is clearly one of the core public policy questions that we have to face as a Congress. It is my view that the proper management of this surplus should involve returning to the taxpayers the funds that were paid in, which gave us the surplus, allowing us to give the taxpayers an opportunity to save for their retirement, and to assure the solvency of the Social Security system, and to begin to pay down the Federal debt. These are the goals that I believe we should be looking at.

I am hopeful that the President, in his State of the Union Address, will set forth a process and a procedure for allowing us to reach these types of goals. So I look forward to hearing the President's proposals in his State of the Union, and I certainly look forward to the next few months as this Congress wrestles with the issue of how to preserve and protect the Social Security system at the same time that we address the budget surplus.

Mr. President, I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ICE STORMS IN THE NORTHEAST

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see my friend from New Hampshire leaving the floor, and I note that he and I have shared a difficult time in the past few weeks with the ice storms in both of our States. But both New Hampshire and Vermont are coming out well. I know that Maine is now still digging out. They have gone through a terrible time, as have the people in upstate New York, and even the Province of Quebec. I note that throughout all that time, every time I called FEMA, James Lee Witt, or anybody else at the Federal level, the response was instantaneous and effective, and that I appreciate.

THE ROLE OF INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to discuss a serious matter. I hesitate to comment on ongoing law enforcement investigations. I have always felt that way.

I am not going to jump into the swirling mix of rumor and revelation and innuendo that has transfixed many in Washington over the last several days. I spent nearly a decade as a prosecutor. I have a very strong sense of what prosecutors should and can do. I am one who has tried to keep any kind of ideological partisanship out of law enforcement decisions. I did that during the time I was a prosecutor, and I have urged that same thing to prosecutors since.

But I am troubled that the independent counsel law has itself been corrupted and no longer serves its intended purpose. The law was part of a congressional effort to create a mechanism that would reassure the American people that partisanship was not influencing prosecutorial decisions, and that law enforcement judgment was being exercised by those who did not have an ax to grind either way—by those who approached matters from a law enforcement point of view, and not—not—from a lodestone set in a partisan rock.

I cannot say with confidence that this is the case with the current Whitewater counsel. I look at the continuing and very selective leaks and tactics employed by Mr. Starr's office over the last few years, and particularly over the last few days. And, like so many other Vermonters and so many other Americans, it gives me pause to see these kind of tactics that no prosecutor should ever condone in his or her offices.

I have seen reports that two weeks ago he was intent on constructing a sting operation to engage the President of the United States in secretly recorded conversations. Have we sunk this low, Mr. President, that we would do things like this?

I have seen complaints that he sought to pressure a young woman and threaten her mother and father if she did not cooperate in allegations that she was counseled to lie under oath.

Maybe I am missing something here, Mr. President. But this is a far distance from investigating a decade-old land deal in Arkansas. Having spent more than $30 million of taxpayers' money in what apparently became a self-perpetuating investigation, the goal now seems to go about getting the President by whatever means necessary.

Last summer I was critical of efforts by Mr. Starr's office to involve itself in allegations of marital infidelity. The justification then to justify the leaks coming out of Mr. Starr's office was that maybe pillow talk might lead to the discovery of some evidence relevant to this decade-old land deal in Arkansas.

Now it seems that the current activities of Mr. Starr's office seem oddly coordinated to aid in a civil lawsuit against the President. The Paula Jones case has had a gag order on it from the beginning. Yet every single day we find the lawyers and those allied with Ms. Jones selectively leaking depositions and court proceedings to the public. Almost in conjunction—almost in the same package—we see items selectively leaked from Mr. Starr's office with one passing the other. You would think it was the same law firm carrying out this civil case. I have never ever seen a prosecutor do something like that in a State court, a Federal court, or any kind of a case.

Having been a prosecutor, I have a sense for the enormous power in that office. If you have $30 million to spend you have the most power any prosecutor could ever have. But with that power comes a responsibility. Decisions about what to pursue and what to prosecute are among the weightiest exercises of public authority. Exercised irresponsibly and without accountability the prosecutor's power is easily abused and is left to go towards effectively partisan purposes.

My point is that at this juncture we need an independent counsel who is clearly removed from partisanship and who can exercise independent judgment. But the country has neither. This is the most partisan, unjustified, means to an end investigation that I can ever remember in my life. Rather than succeed in insulating the power of the prosecutor from abusive partisan purposes, the independent counsel law appears to have captured partisan forces. This goes beyond any question of what might have happened in Whitewater or anywhere else. It is the tactics being used. The tactics tend in many ways to become so outrageous that they can only be considered partisan. If you want people to have confidence in the result of an investigation, then the investigation has to be nonpartisan, and it has to be perceived to be nonpartisan so that all people can respect what comes out of it.

Frankly, Mr. President, from what I am hearing throughout the country, as well as in my own State, people do not expect any idea of impartiality or nonpartisanship from the prosecutor's office. I hope that Mr. Starr will quickly take steps to change that, and will quickly take steps to stop having his office somehow coordinating itself with a civil case, a civil case involving Paula Jones.

I say this because the country is facing some other issues that also have to be attended to.

On Friday I flew back to Vermont, as I do so often during the month, and I picked up every newspaper that I could on the way up just to read in the airplane. There on the front page of a major newspaper were all of the stories of what leaks are coming out of the Paula Jones case and what leaks are coming out of Mr. Starr's office. Tucked almost as an afterthought were such stories as this: The Pope making a historic visit to Cuba, with all the

ramifications that means; Microsoft's settlement with the Justice Department and implications that is going to have for jobs and consumer protection in the years to come; the Unabomber, who terrorized this country for years, pleads guilty; U.S. forces move to arrest a war criminal, something we have not seen I don't think since the time of Nuremberg; the successive visits by Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat to this country and the implications on the peace process for the Middle East. There are other such significant stories: The question of whether we are going to have to go into Iraq and act unilaterally because our allies don't appear to have the guts to stand up to Saddam Hussein. All of these things are tucked back, I say to my colleagues, almost in the fast-food ads in the newspaper. Every one of these things is going to have an enormous effect on your life, on my life, and on the lives of the American people, just as the State of the Union Message will tonight, just as what we do on the floor of the Senate this year.

These are the things that need debate. I am not suggesting that it is wrong to ask questions about the conduct of anybody—not of me, of you, of the President, or anybody else. I am not suggesting that. But what I am suggesting is let us not forget that we represent the most powerful nation history has ever known and the greatest economy history has ever known, at a time of economic boom. Let us not lose sight of what the American people want us to do in protecting this country.

But also let us ask—and I asked the same question incidentally during the activities of the special prosecutor in the Reagan era—let us ask whether we undermine the very things we want to protect in this country by allowing a special prosecutor situation to go way out of bounds of what its original aim was—especially when it becomes ideological, partisan, and allied with those who are carrying out civil cases which have nothing to do with the issue initially contemplated by Whitewater.

Mr. President, I will speak on this more as we go along. I see other Senators who are seeking the floor. I yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I thank you. I ask that I be recognized for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEMISE OF OUR DEFENSE BUDGET

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have a great deal of concern over some of the things that we have been hearing during this interim when we have been considering what we would do if a surplus should become a reality. And we and many people have talked about problems in child care, in Medicare, in the environment, and in education. But the one thing, the one area, that we have the greatest deficiency in America in, and the great threat facing us, is what has happened with the demise of our defense budget and what has happened to our defense system.

Being the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee, we have had occasion to go around and pay visits to a number of our installations. Mr. President, this is not something that has just come on recently. Although now is when the public has finally a wake-up call, thanks perhaps to Saddam Hussein and Iraq, and realizes that there is a great threat out there.

I would like to read just one paragraph out of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act under, "The Storm Clouds Are On The Horizon."

> There are two key factors that threaten to undermine the readiness of our forces—a lack of adequate funding and the over commitment of a greatly reduced force structure. Unless we take necessary steps to correct these problems our military capability will incur significant degredation as we enter into the 21st century.

Mr. President, during this interim period, I visited a number of installations, including Nellis Air Force Base out in the Mojave Desert, and national training systems: The Army Advanced Training System, the Marine Advanced Training Center at Twentynine Palms, and the San Diego naval operations. Also, I have had occasion to be in Camp Lejuene, Fort Bragg, and Fort Hood, and these installations that are trying to keep us prepared throughout America, and throughout the world.

I can tell you that we really have a serious problem. We find that our operations are up, that now we have U.S. forces that have been used in 36 countries in the last 9 years. In the 9 years prior to that there was only 22 countries. We have had over a 300-percent increase in the pace of operations since 1990. We have 26 Army contingency operations in the 7 years since 1991 compared to 10 operations in the 30 years prior to that time. There were 26 operations in just 7 years compared to 10 over the previous 30 years. What this means is we have a "op tempo," or a first tempo, which is a term that is used to measure how busy our people are that are out there and how this is going to affect all of our other operations.

So we actually have two problems that we are faced with. One problem is the fact that we have reduced our budget to an artificially low rate that puts us in the position where we cannot carry out the minimum expectations for the American people. And to be specific about it, we have roughly one-half of the force strength today that we had in 1991. I am talking about one-half the Army divisions, one-half the tactical air wings, and one-half of the ships floating out there. So that is a serious problem.

Then we have stood on this floor time and again and talked about the problems of our deployment on these contingency operations. I can remember standing on this floor in November of 1995 and saying that we cannot afford to send our American troops into Bosnia, and that if we do send them into Bosnia we will incur an operation and an obligation that will sustain the next two decades. The President assured us and promised us. He didn't estimate it, Mr. President. He said that this operation will not exceed 12 months, and that all of our troops will be home from Bosnia for Christmas in 1996. Of course, we knew that wasn't true. We knew the President was not telling the truth. I remember going over there and talking to them. When I told them up there in the northeast sector, the U.N., that it was going to be a 12-month operation, they laughed, and they said, "You mean 12 years." They said it is like putting your hand in the water and leaving it there for 12 months. Take it out, and nothing has changed. The President also said that the cost would be $1.2 billion. Guess what? It has now gone over $8 billion in that effort.

That is not even a part of it. When the American people are told that we only have 8,500 troops over there in Bosnia, that is not true either because if you count the troops as of last week that are in Croatia and the Moravian countries, it is well up to over 12,000 troops. You go over to the 21st Tatical Command in Germany that supplies the logistics for the operation in Bosnia, and they are at 100-percent capacity, and their op tempo rate is 60 percent higher than it should be. What that means in normal terms is that if something happens in Iraq they have to support that logistically on the ground from the 21st Tactical Command. You go 10 miles down the road to Ramstein Air Force Base where they have the 86th Airlift operation, and I defy you to go there and find any ramp space that isn't being used as the C–141s, C–5s and DC–17s that are bringing in everything going to Bosnia are transferring onto C–130s, and off they go. We are using 100 percent of our capacity there. So that is a very, very serious problem that has to be corrected. We cannot do that and continue to try to rebuild a defense operation that has been decimated mostly by this administration. As we go around to these installations, we find that our retention rate is down, the divorce rate is up, and that we are approaching the hollow force days of the late 1970's. We know the two reasons: the budget cuts and the contingency operations.

We have stood on this floor for the last 5 years and talked about the

threat that is facing the United States of America. It is not just that we are not adequately prepared in our state of readiness to take care of normal operations should something erupt, for example, in Iraq or Iran or Syria or North Korea, but we also do not have a national missile defense system. In 1983 we started one that should have been deployable by the year 1998. That is now. Someone was pretty smart back there. And yet this administration stopped that in 1992. We are now 5 years behind, if we get right back in, which I think we will now because there is a wake-up call that the American people have heard. And that is, I would have to say, some good news, that even right now this administration is agreeing with what they have refuted over the last 5 years.

I was very pleased to hear Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen stand up and say that we now know there are over 25 nations that have weapons of mass destruction, either biological, chemical or nuclear, and are working on the missile means to deliver those as far as the United States of America. When Bill Cohen stood up and said Saddam Hussein—keep in mind, here is a guy who murders his own grandchildren—and Iraq under our close supervision still has enough DX gas to kill every man, woman and child on the face of this Earth in 60 seconds, finally America is waking up, and I am very pleased that has happened.

I have a couple articles here that I will not read from because my time is running out, but one article is the one that is the cover story of the current U.S. News & World Report that is out on the newsstands today. It is called: "Can peacekeepers make war?" And they get into the fact, as we have found, that if we had to bring these troops back and put them in a combat environment, it would take between 4 and 6 months to train them. So that exacerbates our problem. And the other is in the National Review. I ask unanimous consent that both of these articles be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See Exhibit 1).

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we are going to have to do something and do that something pretty quick. Unfortunately, as the chairman of the Readiness Committee, I recognize the fact that we are going to have to come up with some money right away, in this coming fiscal year budget, in the defense authorization bill and the defense appropriations bill. We are finding that the Defense Department has engaged in policies that have caused us to foolishly use money that should have been used for readiness. So I am standing here saying we are going to have to do—the money can only come from one place. If we are going to try to keep our retention rate or get it back up, if we are going to stop the divorce rate going up, we are going to have to put some money in quality-of-life and force strength, and the only place that can come from is modernization.

As a strong supporter of the F-22, I can only stand on the floor of the Senate and say we are going to have to delay that program unless we are able to come up with some money to put into our budget for the coming fiscal year.

People who are very wise say, well, that is what we depend upon for future readiness, the F-22. Yes, we do, but we have to make a tradeoff for current readiness or future readiness. It has to be current readiness, with the threat that faces us.

I am here to tell you that we are facing a greater threat today than at any time since World War II. We have a reduced force, and we cannot meet that threat. It has to be changed.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the U.S. News, Jan. 19, 1998]

CAN PEACEKEEPERS MAKE WAR?

(By Richard J. Newman)

In January 1991, eight Apache helicopters from the Army's 101st Air Assault Division were assigned to fire the first shots of the Persian Gulf war. Flying with their lights out, 50 feet off the desert floor, the Apaches sneaked deep into western Iraq and destroyed two key radar sites. The dangerous mission, which largely blinded Saddam Hussein to the subsequent deluge of attack aircraft, was a complete success.

Seven years later, the 101st is not performing so gloriously. During a November mock battle at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., the division's gunners failed to destroy any of the antiaircraft missiles of the "opposition force." As a result, the OpFor shot down all the 101st's Apaches when they tried to mount a deep-strike mission. The OpFor put away half of its antiaircraft missiles, and the 101st tried again. Once more, all its helicopters were shot down. Then the OpFor put all its missiles away—and still shot down six Apaches with tanks and other guns, losing only four tanks in the process. While the OpFor was probably a tougher foe than the Iraqi military, officials familiar with the NTC say the 101st's performance reflects a general deterioration in the last five years in the capabilities of units training at Fort Irwin. It's a "very sad situation here," said one NTC official.

Throughout America's armed forces, there is mounting evidence that conventional combat skills—and the warrior ethic that goes with them—are being eroded by a combination of downsizing, budget cuts, and widespread commitments to noncombat operations in Bosnia, the Middle East, and elsewhere. A December report by a Senate Budget Committee analyst cited "extremely serious Army-wide personnel and training (i.e., readiness) problems," such as units half staffed in key positions like infantry and mechanics. With troop levels being cut to free more money for high-tech weapons systems, the report predicted, those problems will get worse.

Soldiers seem to agree: In a 1997 "leadership assessment," Army officers in 36 percent of a series of focus groups said their units don't know how to fight; nearly half of those groups expressed concern about the Army's growing "hollow," a provocative allusion to the inept, so-called hollow force of the 1970s.

In the Air Force, "mission capable" rates for some fighter jets, which measure how many planes can be ready for war on short notice, are more than 15 percentage points lower than they were in 1989. "We've got some severe stresses," says Gen. Richard Hawley, head of the Air Force's Air Combat Command. "There's not enough resilience in the force." Even the Navy and the Marine Corps, which are better structured to endure long deployments, are struggling. Downsizing and budget cutting have left some ships short of parts and crew members and have forced commanders to increase their estimates of how long it would take to be ready to fulfill wartime tasks. Last fall Rear Adm. Daniel Murphy, the Navy's head of surface warfare, said it may be necessary to pay bonuses to sailors in the surface fleet—like those paid to aviators and submariners—to keep experienced sailors in the Navy.

Do gaps in the force matter? The U.S. military can obviously afford to relax the hair-trigger posture that became the norm over 40 years in the cold war. U.S. defense funding is roughly equal to that of the next six spenders combined. The once-feared Soviet military has dwindled from 4 million troops in 1990 to a Russian force of 1.2 million—with such problems that it could not defeat a ragtag rebel force in the tiny province of Chechnya in 1995. Analysts think it will be at least 15 years before a "peer competitor" such as China or a resurgent Russia could challenge the United States militarily. No country now poses a serious threat to American territory.

More with less. But in many ways the American military has a uniquely demanding job today. Instead of preparing largely for territorial defense, U.S. troops must safeguard vaguely defined American and global "interests" in an increasing number of far-flung places. Since 1990, U.S. armed forces have been utilized in 36 foreign missions, compared with just 22 between 1980

1989, according to analysis by the Congressional Research Service. And there have been fewer troops and dollars to carry out those missions. Since 1989, administrations of both parties have cut the armed forces by one third, and the defense budget by 30 percent, after inflation. The changes were inevitable, with the demise of the Soviet threat, but they still affect the military's ability to meet increasing demands.

The busy pace that results appears to be driving out more experienced service members than ever. In the Marine Corps, 23 of the 175 captains chosen last year to attend the prestigious Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Va., decided instead to leave the Marines; statistics weren't kept before 1995, but officials say it used to be rare for more than three or four to drop out. The Army recruited only 70 percent of the infantrymen it needed in the year ending last September, though Army officials expect that to improve. A 1997 report released by Rep. Floyd Spence, chairman of the House National Security Committee, cited Army statistics showing that 125 infantry squads—equivalent to about five 500-man battalions—are unmanned, keeping units from training at the

appropriate combat strength. And increasingly, Army and Air Force units put off combat training because they are too busy with "low intensity" missions or need the money elsewhere.

In the past, military leaders have used readiness "scares" to plead for more money for favored weapons or other programs. These days, most Pentagon officials understand that total defense budgets will not rise—and so a gain for one branch comes out of another's share. But they also complain that frequent "low intensity" missions—such as peacekeeping, counterdrug operations, humanitarian efforts, and even joint exercises with new Eastern European allies—are diluting the war-fighting capability of U.S. troops by disrupting combat training and breaking down unit cohesion. Ultimately, that is producing an identity crisis: Is the American military's purpose still "fighting and winning our nation's wars," as the Pentagon's national military strategy states? Or are America's enemies so few and feeble that U.S. troops can focus less on war and more on other problems throughout the world?

By its own benchmarks, U.S. military manpower and readiness are falling short. Since 1993 the government's national security strategy has called for U.S. troops to be prepared to fight two regional wars, presumably in Korea and Iraq, less than 45 days apart. (Before that, the Pentagon planned for one very large war with the Soviet Union and lesser conflicts elsewhere, but didn't quantify them.) The Pentagon's quadrennial defense review, released last May, said U.S. forces also must be prepared for greater involvement in "smaller-scale contingencies," such as peacekeeping in Bosnia and the ongoing enforcement of the Iraqi no-fly zones—even though at the same time the Pentagon cut the military by 62,000 troops.

That reduction was part of a deliberate trade-off to pay for new weapons, such as the joint strike fighter and the F-22 aircraft, a new carrier, and tank upgrades. Many analysts agree on the need to modernize some fighting platforms that are 15 to 20 years old. Yet to some officials, the Pentagon's reliance on the offerings of defense contractors borders on a dysfunctional dependency. "We can beat the Chinese or the Russians, but we can't beat Lockheed Martin or Ingalls Shipbuilding," says Army Lt. Col. Ralph Peters, an intelligence analyst who has written widely on strategic planning. "We're spending so much money on aircraft and ships that we'll paralyze the future force." Bases that are no longer needed to support a smaller force also suck up cash. The Pentagon wants to close some of them but has met resistance from Congress.

Such trade-offs make it harder to meet demands on the military today. A classified Pentagon memo written after a Joint Staff war game last spring said the game "made it obvious that we cannot sustain current levels of overseas presence," citing negative effects on "maintenance, personnel, and training readiness." Frederick Kagan, a history professor at West Point, says downsizing alone would make it difficult for the United States to fight even one regional war today. The Army, he says, has only six heavy divisions—too few to field the six division equivalents that fought in the Persian Gulf war while still leaving one division in South Korea to deter an invasion from the north. John Correll, editor of Air Force magazine, points out that the Pentagon said it would take 24 fighter wings to win two wars when it first scripted that scenario in 1993. The Air Force has since been cut to 20 fighter wings, but the Pentagon says this is still enough.

Perhaps most significant is that the declining emphasis on war fighting is not being managed—it is just happening haphazardly as units cut whatever corners on training time and war-fighting preparations they can in order to fulfill assigned missions or meet their budgets. In the Persian Gulf region, for instance, there are usually anywhere from 100 to 300 aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. Pilots of F-15, F-16, and A-10 jets typically fly four-hour patrols that consist mainly of "left-hand turns." The flights are so routine and uneventful that pilots pass the time asking each other movie-trivia questions over their radios. During 45-to 90-day tours in the desert, pilots spend so little time practicing combat maneuvers that when they return home, it takes two to three months of training before they are considered fully ready for war again. A 1997 Rand study even suggests that repetitive air patrols may amount to "negative training," desensitizing crews to dangers and degrading their situational awareness.

Synergy. Those problems on their own may be manageable. But shortfalls in training, readiness, and manpower often feed on one another, multiplying the impact of each. For the 69th Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia—which soon will leave for a 60-day rotation enforcing the Iraqi no-fly zone—a shortage of spare parts means ground crews must regularly "cannibalize" jets, taking parts from one to make another fly. That is not a new practice. But the wing's recent cannibalization rate, which measures parts taken from jets versus missions flown, has topped 25 percent, three times higher than its 8 percent goal. Overall, the wing's goal is a mission-capable rate of 80 to 84 percent; but rates have been below 70 percent for over a year. The mission-capable rate for all F-16s belonging to Air Combat Command is 77 percent, down from 90 percent in 1989; for F-15 air-to-air fighters the rate has fallen from 85 percent to 77 percent.

With a smaller military, troops are being sent more frequently on drawn-out missions such as those in Bosnia—which President Clinton last month declared to be an open-ended commitment—and the Persian Gulf, where the U.S. commitment is 7 years old and growing. Increasingly long deployments away from home and aggressive hiring by growing commercial airlines are driving many pilots out of the Air Force once they have fulfilled their seven-year commitment. In the A-10 squadron at Moody, six out of the nine pilots eligible to leave this year decided to do so—despite increased bonuses of up to $22,000 for staying in. Throughout the Air Force, retention rates for pilots fell to an estimated 75 percent in 1997, down 12 points from 1995 levels. The Air Force has had other pilot crunches—in the early 1980s, for example, when airlines were aggressively luring away fliers—but the problem then was not exacerbated by budget cuts and increased missions, as it is now.

The Air Force is compensating by running more people through flight school—but with junior pilots replacing senior ones, there could soon be a sharp drop in overall experience levels. Mechanics and other key personnel are also affected. One C-130 pilot says: "We're getting a lot of [mechanics] with no C-130 experience. They ask, 'How do you turn this thing on?' If he's asking how to turn it on and it's his job to fix the system, there's obviously a problem." Many pilots fear that such shortages could lead to more accidents.

The Army faces similar strains. After one infantry unit returned from a peacekeeping mission in Macedonia in 1994—where it went without its Bradley fighting vehicles—it received the lowest score in its division on tests of its ability to shoot and operate its Bradleys. A Rand study to be released within the next month found that Army troops sent frequently on peace operations, such as military police and certain transportation units, are underprepared for their wartime tasks.

As the service most dependent on people, the Army is particularly vulnerable to ripple effects that begin with personnel shortfalls. A lack of infantrymen, mechanics, and mid-grade officers forces the Army to stitch units together in order to field the appropriate force for missions in places such as Bosnia. That in turn breaks up units, undermining the cohesion needed for infantry, tanks, artillery, and aviation to fight as "combined arms"—a level of performance critical to success in modern combat.

The 1st Armored Division in Germany epitomizes the problem. It has two staffs—one in Germany, one in Bosnia—and troops in at least three different regions. "The logic of maintaining readiness is thrown astray by this piecemeal discombobulation," says an Army general. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have begun to study what would happen if units doing peace operations were suddenly needed in a war—or two wars. Early findings: Moving troops out of one place and into a war zone would "put a strain on an already fragile transportation system," according to one classified Pentagon document. Another cites "many more risks"—including the potential loss of equipment in a hasty withdrawal and the two to six months it would take to retrain units for war.

Above all, some fear that soldiers are not learning the basic lessons needed to succeed in war. Units going through the National Training Center or the Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana are barely more than half staffed, says retired Marine Corps Gen. John Sheehan. That, the Senate Budget Committee report noted, violates the Army's doctrine to "train just as you go to war."

"We're raising a generation of young leaders who are not learning to run large organizations," says Sheehan. "They won't know how to command their troops even if they get them all in a war." More important may be the messages sent by top commanders. "We have no leaders talking to us about how important it is to prepare your soldiers for battle so they don't die in combat," says an Army major. "It's disheartening to many of us." That may also be causing deeper problems not easily fixed by more funding, higher-tech weapons, or better training. "The brass are refusing to stand up for the warrior spirit," says John Hillen, a Persian Gulf war veteran and fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Recent imbroglios over the proper role of women in the military have added to the distractions.

Hanging touch. Top Pentagon leaders insist the military is not going soft. In an interview last week, Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, dismissed comparisons between the demoralized force of the 1970s and today's. "There is a world of difference between where we were then and where we are now," he said. "We have a tremendously talented bunch of young men and women." Nor does Shelton believe that anecdotal reports of problems, on their own, indicate a readiness shortfall. He and others say that the Pentagon's carefully monitored readiness statistics do not indicate serious degradations in the force.

But those figures—which measure how long it would take a unit to be ready for

war—are somewhat subjective, based on commanders' own estimates of how well their troops are trained. Some doubt their validity. "The readiness rates are false," one Army colonel flatly states. "There is a lot of pressure from higher-ups to inflate them. It's like all the students are getting A's, then flunking the final exam." Shelton does acknowledge some readiness "issues," particularly problems with highly skilled troops leaving the service. Some senior and retired leaders who served during the 1970s think those are ominous signs. They say that readiness tends to slip gradually at first—but at a point begins to drop precipitously, and then becomes very hard to reverse.

The Pentagon has protected some of its key units from cutbacks and other distractions. The 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea, for example, which could absorb the brunt of a North Korean invasion with less than three days' notice, is staffed at over 100 percent, including some "augmentees" from the South Korean Army. Commanders are so focused on war they are almost scornful of any other type of mission. "We don't face the same problems stateside units do," says Lt. Col. Robert Sweeney, former commander of the 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment. "My focus is clear. I'm not going to be doing humanitarian operations." Even though assignments to Korea are considered a "hardship tour"—an entire year's deployment, with no family allowed for most troops—commanders say a clear focus, and a ready enemy, make it easy to sustain morale.

JSTARS, where are you? But even there the tip of the spear may be getting duller, U.S. military planners in South Korea say budget constraints and competing demands elsewhere keep them from getting enough access to "special mission" assets such as Joint STARS surveillance aircraft, F–117 stealth fighters, and F–15E strike jets. "We're being told to be more efficient," says an intelligence staffer in Seoul. "But efficiency doesn't cut it in war. Redundancy does." Some analysts think new technology may greatly reduce the numbers of ground troops and conventional platforms needed in a war. But relying on new systems before they are battle tested leaves troops feeling they have less margin for error.

Shortfalls appear to be more serious in the Persian Gulf, where a rematch with Iraq would probably come with more advance warning—but still be bloody. A radar operator who has worked at an airfield in Kuwait says there are no longer any backups for the facility's radar, the only ground-based system available for tracking nearby aircraft, including enemy planes. "We're a forward operating unit and we still don't get what we need," he says. "When that baby goes down and you realize there's no backup, you start saying, 'Where is the priority?' "

Troops' morale, an intangible but essential ingredient of success in combat, can weather temporary problems. But persistent shortages and seemingly never-ending commitments take a toll. "Troops don't understand why, if what they do is so important, they don't give us the tools to do it," says Lt. Col. Michael Snodgrass, commander of the 69th Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base. Enthusiasm suffers first. Before Desert Storm, says Col. Billy Diehl, acting commander of Moody's 347th Wing, the Air Force's annual Red Flag aerial combat exercise "was the highlight of the year." But in 1996, when he arrived at Moody, "everybody was thrilled that it was canceled."

A more important casualty is confidence. A C–130 pilot says that due to training cutbacks, "My own skills are nowhere near where they were. Some of the new guys, I'm deathly afraid to go to war with them. They just don't have the training." John Stillion, a former Air Force navigator and Rand analyst, says that on a recent visit to an Air Force base, morale was "far worse than I've ever seen it. I'm amazed at how bitter they sounded."

Surprisingly, few in the military—which studies show is overwhelmingly conservative today—feel the solution is to withdraw from its peacekeeping missions in the world's trouble spots. One typical Army colonel strongly objects to the political gamesmanship of setting unrealistic deadlines for troop adjustments in places such as Bosnia. But nonetheless, he believes U.S. troops should be there: "It is appropriate use of the military, mainly because nobody else can do it."

Some practical steps could help strike a better balance between preparing for war and preserving peace. Many in the Army would like to see the National Guard shoulder more of the burden for peacekeeping, Rand researchers and others argue that a more modular structure would make the Army much more flexible. Ideas include self-supporting combat groups of about 5,000 troops—one third the size of a division—or discrete support units that can each carry out a variety of functions, instead of specializing in transportation or engineering. Some in the Air Force are pushing a "cop on the beat" approach, enforcing no-fly zones with random patrols, augmented by sensors that detect air and ground movements.

But what America's troops crave most is a clear message from their leaders stating the purpose of U.S. forces. Are they warriors, whose main job is to fight and win wars? Or police assigned to prop up struggling nations and keep the world safe for American commerce? If U.S. forces must fulfill both roles, how can they do each well? Many members of the military believe that before those questions can be answered, there needs to be greater awareness of what U.S. troops accomplish by being everywhere they are—and what risks are involved in spreading them ever thinner. "We need a better understanding among the American public that we have interests outside the United States," says Lt. Gen. Joseph Hurd, commander of the 7th Air Force in South Korea. Once those interests are sorted out, it wouldn't hurt to inform the troops in the ranks, either.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET SURPLUS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, as we reconvene today for the second session of the 105th Congress, there is important work ahead of us. I am certain my colleagues join me in acknowledging that regardless of the headlines and the commotion that is going on outside this chamber, the Senate cannot be distracted from its responsibility to carry out the will of the people. America's families, its taxpayers, have great expectations of us, and we must not let them down. So I look forward to what we can accomplish together on their behalf.

I have to admit, though, that I have mixed feelings about the session ahead of us. I think Will Rogers explained my predicament best when he said, "This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer."

When the baby finds the hammer, somebody almost always gets hit over the head. In 1998, the "hammer" is the much-anticipated budget surplus, and I am afraid it may very well be the taxpayers who get whacked by it.

Earlier this month, the Congressional Budget Office projected that the federal deficit would decline sharply this year from its original estimate of $125 billion to $5 billion. It also forecast a $14 billion surplus in 2001 and a total of $665 billion in surpluses by the end of the next decade.

Now, tax dollars are always considered "free money" by the big spenders here in Washington, and the thought of all that new "free money" is creating a feeding frenzy here on Capitol Hill. The rush to spend is like something right off the Discovery Channel, like the free-for-all that results when a pack of hungry predators gets hold of a piece of raw meat. A ravenous creature in its own right, Washington will attack a pile of tax dollars and spend, spend, spend until it is all gone—until the bones have been stripped of every last morsel of meat.

Mr. President, with all due respect to my colleagues in both chambers, I am disgusted by this "stampede to spend," and angry that it is being championed on both sides of the political aisle. I am a Republican, elected by the people of Minnesota to carry out my promise to lower their taxes and rein in a federal government that has grown out of control. Republicans gained control of Congress because we are the champions of the taxpayers—the American people trusted us to carry out our promise when we said, "Elect a Republican majority and we will help you build a better life for yourselves and families by curbing Washington's impulse to spend your precious tax dollars."

They certainly did not elect Republicans thinking we would build a bigger, more expensive government the first chance we got.

Not only are we rushing to join the spending stampede, but we are doing it before the budget is actually balanced, before a surplus actually exists, before even a single surplus dollar makes its way into the federal treasury.

If this is a race to prove who can be the most "compassionate" with the taxpayers' dollars, it is a race nobody is going to win, and one the taxpayers most certainly will lose. When is Washington going to understand that you cannot buy compassion? And Washington cannot give something to Americans, without taking more from Americans. I hear the big spenders say that

Americans are struggling so Washington needs to do more. And "more" always means taking more from Americans so Washington can control, shape, and direct our families and our lives.

Who is going to stand up in this chamber for the taxpayers if the Republicans will not? If our party is abandoning our commitment to fiscal responsibility—the commitment that built a congressional majority—we are abandoning the taxpayers as well. And do not think the taxpayers have not noticed. One of my constituents, Dale Rook of Beardsley, Minnesota, summed up the feelings of many in a recent letter: "It appears that the Democrats are still in control of both Houses of Congress," he wrote. "Why? What has happened to the Republican Party?" he wrote. A lot of us are asking that very same question.

Of course, the Republicans do not have a monopoly here when it comes to spending. I am deeply troubled by what is happening on Capitol Hill among both parties, and every taxpayer ought to be as well. And as a Senator representing the nation's families—America's hard-working, taxpaying families—I pledge that they will not be forgotten.

Let me speak specifically about the deficit and the anticipated surplus. Both Congress and the President have rushed to claim the credit for the decline in the federal deficit. Mr. President, I think we should give credit where credit is due. In this case, the credit really belongs to the robust American economy and the working Americans who propel it. And Washington should not be allowed to take that away from American families, workers, and business. Washington should not gain more control of our spending.

The economy, not any government action, has produced this unprecedented revenue windfall. These unexpected dollars have come directly from working Americans—taxes paid by corporations, individuals and investors. If the economy continues to generate 8 percent revenue growth as in recent years, we could soon enjoy unified budget surpluses.

However, Mr. President, we must remember this is a surplus only under a unified budget. That means Social Security surpluses that the government borrowed to pay its bills are also counted in the projection. Payroll taxes from the current generation of workers provides far more money than is needed to finance benefits for today's retirees; the extra money is used for other government programs. Without borrowing from the Social Security trust funds, the real federal deficit could be $116 billion, rather than a $14 billion surplus in 2001. In fact, the total deficit will be nearly a trillion in the next ten years. This means we will see deficits, not surpluses, as far as the eye can see.

In any event, if the budget surpluses, indeed, occur, with or without Social Security borrowing, the question of how to apply these surpluses remains critical. In my view, the right way to use any potential budget surplus is to return those funds to working Americans and their children in the form of meaningful tax relief, national debt reduction, and channeling them toward solutions to our long-term financial imbalances, thus ensuring our economy continues to grow. Since the unexpected revenue has come directly from working Americans, it is only fair to return it to them. Despite the first, tentative steps we took last year toward real tax reform for families, the tax burden on the American people is still historically high. It is sound policy to use part of the surpluses to lower the tax burden and allow families to keep a little more of their hard-earned money.

Over the past 30 years, we have amassed a $5.5 trillion national debt thanks to Washington's culture of spending. A newborn child today will bear about $20,000 of that debt the moment he or she comes into the world. Each year, we sink more $250 billion into the black hole of interest payments, which could be better spent fighting crime, maintaining roads and bridges, and equipping the military. It is sound policy to use part of any surpluses to begin paying down the national debt and reducing the financial burden on the next generations.

The budget surpluses also give us a great opportunity to address our other long-term financial imbalances. Federal unfunded liabilities could eventually top $14 trillion, bankrupting our government if no real reform occurs. It is vitally important that we use the budget surpluses to finance these reforms, not to try to buy popularity—spending in the name of compassion and need, while putting our entire futures at financial risk.

If we fail to fix these long-term fiscal time bombs, the federal deficit could come back and haunt us in a catastrophic way, shattering the health of our future economy and placing an unbearable burden on our children and grandchildren. According to the CBO, the federal deficit would increase to $11 trillion and the national debt would balloon to $91 billion in 2035 without substantial entitlement reform.

Some of my colleagues have suggested that we put the surpluses into the Social Security trust funds. I generally agree that we should build real assets for the trust funds by returning borrowed Social Security surplus into it. But our Social Security system is in serious financial trouble—a fiscal disaster-in-the-making that is not sustainable in its present form as the Senator from New Hampshire outlined a few minutes ago. Simply funneling money back into a broken system will not help fix the problem. It will not build the real assets of the funds for current and future beneficiaries and it does not address the flaws of the current pay-as-you-go finance mechanism. Without fundamental reform, the system will consume all the surpluses and go broke. Using the budget surpluses to build real assets by changing the system from pay-go to pre-funded is the right way to go.

The wrong way is to spend all those dollars on new government programs, which is exactly what President Clinton has proposed to do, even before a surplus is realized. The President has recklessly planned to expand Medicare, rather than reforming it to preserve it from soon going broke. He is also seeking a $22 billion increase in child-care expenditures and subsidies. This is after Washington increased child care expenditures by 500% in the last two years, going from $4 billion to $20 billion a year just one year ago. Although I think it is good to bring tax credits back to the table, it is wrong for Washington to control daycare for American families. The President also wants to throw more money into federal education programs for local schools without addressing the real problems of the system. And advocating Washington take more control of education rather than State and local governments and local school boards.

Despite the President's rhetoric that the era of big government is over, President Clinton, with the help of congressional spenders, has made it even bigger. Actual annual government spending has increased from $1.3 trillion to $1.6 trillion since Mr. Clinton took the White House, adding over $1.2 trillion to the national debt.

Even under the '97 budget agreement, spending will increase to nearly $1.9 trillion in 2002, a growth of 18 percent over 1992 levels. Is there any sign of leaner government anywhere? No. Like the overweight diner who lunches on lettuce and peaches with the family then sneaks a pint of ice cream once the kitchen lights have been turned off, the enablers of big government profess their new-found fiscal restraint but hungrily pounce on your tax dollars at the first opportunity.

We must never, never, never repeat the mistake we made in 1997. If you will remember, as soon as the CBO discovered a $225 billion revenue windfall that "might" be received by the federal government in the next six years, Congress and the President spent all of it, to expand existing programs and create new programs. Not a penny is left. Few wasteful and unnecessary programs were eliminated. The savings we achieved through welfare reform are almost completely wiped out.

If the budget surpluses are not returned to the American people in the form of debt reduction or tax relief, I am absolutely certain Congress and President Clinton will spend them all

for new and expanded government programs. When it is paid for by the taxpayers, Washington has never been able to resist raiding the freezer for that late-night pint of ice cream.

Listen to what the people are saying. A Time/CNN poll conducted in mid January reveals that most Americans—78 percent of them—believe that spending the budget surplus to reduce the national debt should be a top priority. Sixty-eight percent also favored using the surplus to cut federal income taxes.

I'm hearing that same message in the calls, faxes, letters, and e-mails I have received this month. Here are the words of Mark Keppel of Minneapolis:

> I want you to know how strongly your constituency feel that you do not allow those feeding at the taxpayer trough to waste this opportunity to reduce our huge current debt burden.
>
> These tax collections are over-collections of our money, and we wish to either reduce our outstanding debt or have this surplus returned to us, not reallocated to new, unfunded projects. Can that be any clearer?

Brian Tice, a 27-year-old constituent of mine from Anoka, was equally clear. "If our country is bankrupted," he wrote, "my lifetime of savings and my retirement will go down with it. I encourage you to stand firm against those . . . who will pressure you into spending the surplus on social and special interest programs."

After hundreds of billions of new spending and over a trillion in new debts, President Clinton announced on January 5th that he will submit a balanced budget to Congress for the 1999 fiscal year. I am encouraged by his announcement. I welcome the President's intention to balance the budget. But why wait another year?

The robust economy has offered us a historic opportunity to finally put our fiscal house in order. We should, and can, balance the budget this year by trimming just a few wasteful government-spending programs.

Compared to nearly $1.7 trillion in annual government spending, a $5 billion spending cut is peanuts. And if we can achieve it, it will balance the federal budget for the first time since 1969, and think of the positive impact it would have on our economy. That is why my colleagues, Senators BROWNBACK, INHOFE, ASHCROFT, ALLARD, HUTCHINSON and myself sent a letter to the congressional leadership early this month, urging Congress and the President to work together to achieve a balanced budget this year, rather than the next year, by rescinding $5 billion from the 1998 budget.

More importantly, the sooner we balance our budget the less pain we will suffer in the future. As I said earlier, the long-term fiscal time bombs we are facing require that we take action quickly. Escalating Social Security and Medicare costs pose the primary threat to the federal government's long-term solvency. We have only ten-year's time to fix Social Security. If it is mishandled, millions of Americans could suffer. Medicare is already in a horrific situation. It has accumulated over a trillion-dollar deficit and will soon be broke. Immediate action has to be taken to preserve and improve it.

There are trillions of other federal unfunded liabilities that we cannot ignore. These include entitlement programs other than Social Security and Medicare: federal civilian and military pensions, railroad retirement benefits, federal insurance programs, bank deposit insurance, private pension insurance, and a huge portfolio of guaranteed loans, environmental cleanup, and deferred maintenance and life-cycle costs for equipment and infrastructure—all of which have some risk of going sour and costing the government substantial sums down the road.

If we balance the budget this year, it will give us a little more time and a little more flexibility to focus on and fix these long-term financial liabilities.

Mr. President, I began this statement by quoting Will Rogers. As I conclude, let me quote him once again:

> There is not a man in the country that cannot make a living for himself and family. But he cannot make a living for them and his government, too, the way his government is living. What the government has got to do is live as cheap as the people.

Our immediate task should be to regain the confidence of the American people by achieving a balanced budget and keeping it balanced by shrinking the size of the government. That is, by asking government to live as cheap as the people. By doing so, we will reduce interest rates, increase national savings, create more jobs, provide more meaningful tax cuts, and generate more revenues. More importantly, we will shrink the financial burden for our children and grandchildren.

As the Senate meets today to open the second session of the 105th Congress, I urge my colleagues to recall the promises they have made to the American taxpayers. Embrace those promises, and put the needs and desires of the people ahead of the impulse to leave a legacy of compassion—a legacy that could bury the taxpayers if left unchecked. Let us work with the President to achieve a balanced budget this year and begin a new era of government accountability.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 8 minutes as in morning business, to be followed immediately by my colleague, Senator ALLARD, for 8 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. ALLARD pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 166 and S. Res. 167 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

DARTON COLLEGE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize an outstanding institution in my home state of Georgia, Darton College.

Recently, I was contacted by one of the school's students who wrote to express his pride and support of his school and the educational opportunity that he is being provided. Mr. President, it is my belief that the finest accolade a school can receive is the praise of its students and, in turn, their success.

There are many battles on the American playing field each day, in the business world, political world, the judicial world, but none can be more important than those being fought in the classrooms of our learning institutions. Because, after all, our nation depends on these educational institutions to provide us with the necessary tools to win the other battles we encounter in our lifetime.

Mr. President, with that in mind, I would like to express my support for continued success and prosperity for past, current and future students, faculty and staff of Darton College.

1997 FALL PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, when the first session of the 105th Congress ended last November, a group of young men and women also ended their term as United States Senate Pages. Today, I rise on behalf of the Senate to say "thank you" to these young people.

Pages are an integral part of our daily life here in the Senate, and I salute them for their tireless service, and would like to express the appreciation of the Senate for their fine work.

Many people, Senators included, may not fully appreciate the rigorous nature of page life. Their daily routine is not an easy one, and is one that begins early each morning. Senate pages rise early in order to attend classes. Upon concluding class work, the pages make their way to the Capitol to prepare for the day's session. Preparing the Senate Chamber for a day's session entails securing and placing on each Senator's desk the appropriate legislative documents that will be under discussion during the session, as well as securing supplemental documents that become available throughout the day.

Pages are on the go constantly, and are called upon to perform a variety of tasks—in addition to their tasks associated with preparing the Senate chamber for daily sessions. These might include obtaining documents requested by individual Senators, running errands between the Capitol and the Senate office buildings, as well as assisting

Cloakroom personnel at the regularly scheduled conference luncheons.

Once the Senate has concluded business for the day, the pages return to their dorm and prepare for the next day's classes and, we hope, get some much-needed sleep. While a day in the life of a page is filled from morning to night, each page continually discharges his or her tasks efficiently and cheerfully.

In the first session of the 105th Congress, these young people witnessed the enactment of a balanced budget agreement ironed out between the Administration and the Congress that will soon result in a balanced budget. This historic event was the result of months of negotiations and required both sides, Democrats and Republicans, to be willing to accede on policy issues of importance to each side—the give and take of the legislative process.

Mr. President, our country's future lies with the generation of those young people who sit to the left and right of the Presiding officer.

I hope that some of what the pages have witnessed here will inspire them to pursue a career of public service. As they have returned to their hometowns, perhaps they have taken with them an appreciation and better understanding of our system of government and the importance of the legislative process. Perhaps in the years ahead, one or more of that group will return here to serve as members of the Senate.

Again, I say goodbye to the pages and hope that they all enjoyed their experience in the United States Senate. Speaking on behalf of my Democratic colleagues and all members of the Senate, we wish for them a bright and successful future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the 1997 Fall Senate pages be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the names were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

1997 FALL PAGES

REPUBLICANS

Adamson, Justin, Idaho.
Austin, Chesley, Vermont.
Bowers, Jackson, South Carolina.
Brown, Sarah, New Hampshire.
Dorn, Lauren, South Carolina.
Grade, Renee, Washington.
Holson, William, Delaware.
Jaussi, Richard, Utah.
Johnson, Junior, South Carolina.
Martira, Nancy, Rhode Island.
Maurer, Michelle, Arkansas.
McFerron, Ben, Maryland.
Moody, Justin, Alaska.
Ordner, David, Indiana.
Parker, Marisa, Mississippi.
Satcher, Bess, South Carolina.
Shevlin, Thomas, New York.
Studdert, Michael, Utah.

DEMOCRATS

Eschenbacher, Christian, Montana.
Graff, Garrett, Vermont.
Knowles, James, Oregon.
Koontz, Megan, Iowa.
Larson, Tiffany, South Dakota.
Lichtblau, Daniel, New York.
Miller, Anne, Massachusetts.
Raizada, Avinash, Michigan.
Soriano, Jennifer, Hawaii.
Towns, Rachel, Wisconsin.
Wiese, Dayton, South Dakota.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, Senators may be intrigued to learn that during the 74 days Congress was in recess, the federal debt increased by more than $57 billion.

To be exact, the increase (from November 13, 1997 to January 26, 1998) totaled $57,033,087,681.31 (Fifty-seven billion, thirty-three million, eighty-seven thousand, six hundred eighty-one dollars and thirty-one cents).

This increase is a blunt reminder that even when Congress takes a break, the federal debt does not. The federal debt will continue to soar unless and until Congress changes the status quo. Presently, each citizen's share of the national debt is $20,424.89.

Mr. President, with this in mind, let me begin where we left off:

At the close of business yesterday, Monday, January 26, 1998, the federal debt stood at $5,487,280,357,810.54 (Five trillion, four hundred eighty-seven billion, two hundred eighty million, three hundred fifty-seven thousand, eight hundred ten dollars and fifty-four cents).

Five years ago, January 26, 1993, the federal debt stood at $4,171,138,000,000 (four trillion, one hundred seventy-one billion, one hundred thirty-eight million).

Ten years ago, January 26, 1998, the federal debt stood at $2,448,079,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred forty-eight billion, seventy-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, January 26, 1983, the federal debt stood at $1,196,856,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred ninety-six billion, eight hundred fifty-six million).

Twenty-five years ago, January 26, 1973, the federal debt stood at $449,476,000,000 (Four hundred forty-nine billion, four hundred seventy-six million) which reflects a debt increase of over $5 trillion—$5,037,804,357,810.54 (Five trillion, thirty-seven billion, eight hundred four million, three hundred fifty-seven thousand, eight hundred ten dollars and fifty-four cents) during the past 25 years.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, we are in morning business and allowed to speak for 10 minutes; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

SECOND SESSION OF THE 105TH CONGRESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as we begin a new year in the U.S. Congress, the second session of this Congress, I look forward with anticipation to a number of issues we must address. I hope we can do that in a bipartisan way, and I hope we will not be distracted by a lot of other things that come up during the year and that we will actually accomplish some good things for the country.

I recognize that outside this Chamber there is now a scandal that exists in this country. We will undoubtedly learn the facts about the allegations that have been made, and the American people will make a judgment based upon those facts. That is the way it should be. To make judgments about allegations and about rumors and about planted stories, and so on, before the facts are known is not a proper way to deal with them.

But notwithstanding what is happening outside this Chamber, we have responsibilities here. I was interested to learn that in the first hour and a half of this second session, we had people come to the Chamber of the Senate, once again, and tell us about how our country works and what is wrong with our country. It was interesting to me that the Chamber lights had hardly become warm when we had Members come to the floor to, once again, talk about who the big spenders are. "Oh, the big spenders on this side" and "the big spenders on"—it is interesting that nothing ever changes.

I watched the American music awards show on television last night. I thought to myself as I listened to a bit of this this morning that, had this discussion taken place yesterday, we could have entered some of this dialog for best rap artist or best presentation in rap music. It certainly is a rap. There is no tune there, but they never miss a lyric. It is that this side represents the big spenders.

I just want to begin for a moment today to talk about where we are and how we got here and what our need is this year to address critical issues for this country.

First of all, where are we? We are in a country that is blessed with a very strong economy. Things are going well in this country. Unemployment is down. Welfare is down. Crime is down. Inflation is down. Economic growth is up. More people are working. Things are better in this country.

I heard not too many minutes ago someone say, "But none of that has anything to do with Congress; it has to do with a good economy." I remind Members of Congress that in 1993, this President and this Congress decided to take a tough vote. Are we going to put this country back on track? Are we going to tell the American people that we are serious about wrestling this crippling budget deficit to the ground? Are we going to cast a hard vote, an unpopular vote, a tough vote? The answer was yes. We did, by one vote in the U.S. Senate and one vote in the

U.S. House of Representatives, cut spending. Yes, we increased some taxes, and we said to the American people we are serious about getting this country's fiscal house in order. We are going to wrestle that Federal deficit to the ground. And the fact is, it gave the American people confidence. They said, "These folks are serious; they understand this is a serious problem for this country and they are willing to make tough votes."

I went home to my State and said, "I voted yes. I voted yes because I believe it is the best thing for this country to send a signal to the markets, the American citizens and everyone in this world that this country cares about these issues and we intend, this President intends and this Congress intends, to get our fiscal house in order." And by one vote we passed a plan in 1993 that set this economy off into a universe of economic growth and economic opportunity—by one vote.

This economy rests on people's confidence. If people are confident about the future, they do things that reflect that confidence: They buy cars; they buy houses; they invest; they do things that reflect their confidence about the future. If they are not confident, they make different decisions. Based on people's confidence or lack of it, this economy moves forward or lurches backward.

My point is, for someone to say this is all accidental is to ignore history. This is not accidental. This President deserves some credit for a fiscal policy that was tough and no nonsense and said we care about wrestling this Federal budget deficit to the ground. And this Congress, those of us in it who voted yes on that, participated in it.

I might add, while people are pointing across aisles, as I heard earlier, about big spending in the Congress, we did not even get one vote by accident from the other side of the aisle for a fiscal policy that says we are going to solve this deficit problem.

We come to today with a good economy and, I think, some good news ahead of us. I hope all of us, reaching across the aisle, can decide we have a common agenda. When people sit around their homes in the evening and have supper together and talk about their lives, what do they talk about? They talk about these things: Are our kids going to a good school, getting a good education? Do we have a good job or opportunity for a decent job that pays well with decent benefits? Do our children or grandparents have an opportunity for health care that is good? Can they afford it? Are our streets safe, our neighborhoods safe? Is the air clean, the water we drink safe, the food we eat safe? What about our roads? In what condition are our roads and bridges? And what about family farms and those who produce our food? Those are the issues that people care about and want us to do something about.

Let me tick off about four areas that we have to grapple with quickly. We just heard two discussions a moment ago about surplus. One said we are not spending enough money; we need to spend more on defense. The second one said it is the other folks over here on this side of the aisle who are the big spenders, and so forth, and talked about the surplus. There is no surplus.

The only basis on which anyone can claim they balanced the budget is to take nearly $100 billion out of Social Security trust funds and use it over in the budget to claim there is a surplus. There is no surplus, and no one in this room ought to be persuaded to spend the surplus that doesn't exist. To the extent we will have a surplus after we have made whole the Social Security funds and used those trust funds for the purpose for which they were intended, when we get to that point, and only when we get to that point, will we have a surplus. And when we do, I think at least a part of that surplus ought to be used to pay down just a part of the Federal debt. In good times, you ought to be able to reduce indebtedness. But no one ought to rush around talking about a surplus that doesn't exist.

I believe that President Clinton will call tonight to use the accumulated revenues that come from a better economy to make good on those trust fund bonds, and that is exactly what we ought to do. No one ought to claim a surplus as long as those who are using those trust funds are using them as operating revenues.

Let me tell the Presiding Officer that, if you look at the Congressional Budget Office, which puts out byzantine reports, their most recent report shows that if a budget which they claim is in balance at some point—next year, I guess—they claim that the debt won't continue to grow. Why will they claim that? Because they don't include all the debt. I have just written them a letter saying you can't give us half-answers and half-truths. The answer is, when they claim the budget is in balance, the Federal debt will continue to increase, which is prima facie evidence that this notion of a budget being in balance when you are misusing Social Security trust funds is a fraud.

Campaign finance reform. We must address it and do it quickly. We had a little house race in New York State. In the middle of that race for one house seat in New York State, $800,000 of out-of-State money came in under the notion of express issue advocacy, brought in against a candidate—I understand that was not money accountable to anybody; it could be soft money, corporate money—brought in precisely to defeat a congressional candidate, but essentially laundered through a system that now permits that kind of laundering so that no one in that district will ever know whose money it was. Is it unlimited corporate money that goes into this system and then is washed up through some congressional district someplace to defeat a specific candidate and, therefore, it is not accountable? It is polluting the political system. It is wrong, and anyone in this Chamber who stands up and defends that, in my judgment, doesn't understand what the Founding Fathers decided about this political system of ours.

That ought not be the case, and we ought to take steps to change it. We are going to push and push in this Chamber to get a vote on these issues and get campaign finance reform done. Some will continue to filibuster. They have a right to filibuster, but the American people have a right to expect us to clean up this mess, and the sooner the better.

Health care. We ought to deal with health care. We ought to do that soon. I read in the New York Times about a woman who had fallen in an accident. Her brain was swelling. She was in an ambulance being rushed to the hospital. She had the presence of mind to say to the ambulance drivers, "I don't want to go to the nearest hospital," and she named it by name. "I want to be taken to a hospital farther away." This is a woman with a brain injury, in the back of an ambulance, speeding down the street. She said that because she knew by reputation that when you are wheeled into that nearest hospital, your health is a matter of their bottom line—dollars and cents. She said, "I want to go to a hospital where I am wheeled into an emergency room where they are not going to look at me with respect to dollars and cents."

Managed care. What does it mean to quality of care all across this country? We ought to address that. Do patients have rights? If so, what are the rights? Do they have a right to find out from their doctors in this country what the treatment options are? If not, why not? Who is withholding that information from patients and why? Which patient doesn't get it? Is it some function of a bottom line in some company that is making money off health care? Is it some 24-year-old accountant in some office 200 miles away that is telling a doctor what kind of health care that doctor can perform on that patient and what the doctor can tell that patient about the patient's options? This Congress has a right and a responsibility to deal with those health care issues, and we ought to do it soon in this session.

Mr. President, the issue of education is also critically important. There isn't a country that shortchanges education and remains a strong world-class power. Thomas Jefferson, at the start of this system, said anyone who believes this country can be ignorant and free believes in something that never was and never will be.

We can do things to improve education in the country, but I am not one who believes it is bankrupt. How did we

get to where we are? Does anyone want to leave this country to find better health care somewhere else? Do you know anybody who wants to go to a world-class university who looks overseas? Most of them are here in this country.

I am not one who says it is a bankrupt system, but we can improve it. We ought to get reports on our schools. We get reports about our kids. As parents and taxpayers, we deserve a report card about how our schools are doing in educating our kids.

Finally, Mr. President, we need to deal with the highway bill, and we need to do that quickly. On our agenda, we ought to decide tomorrow the highway bill ought to be brought to the floor of the Senate. We were supposed to have done it last year and didn't. And we were told now it will be the first item on the agenda this year.

I am told it may wait until the budget bill. I appeared on a television program this morning with the chairman of the relevant committee in the House of Representatives. He says, well, he is ready to bring up the bill in the House, but he has an agreement with the Speaker not to bring it up until the budget bill. That means 2, 3, or 4 months from now. That cannot happen.

We cannot wait 3 or 4 months for a highway bill that was supposed to have been passed last year. You do that and you have contractors in States that cannot do bid lettings, you have people being laid off of projects where the project should go forward to build and repair roads and bridges. So we cannot do that.

We need to expect, in the next day or two, that the majority leader will do what he told us he would do; that is, bring the highway bill to the floor of the Senate. Let us debate it and let us move it out.

Oh, they are worried about an amendment that is going to be offered to it. I understand that. But, you know, you can worry about amendments forever. Bring the bill to the floor, let us have a vote on the amendments and send the bill to conference—and let us put some pressure on the Speaker to do the same on the House side—and get a highway bill out so the American people can have some certainty about what kind of investment we are going to make in bridges and roads and repairs and the building of that infrastructure.

People pay taxes. It goes into a trust fund to do it. And I think they should be able to expect that we are going to do what is necessary.

Finally, Mr. President—and I know the Senator from Minnesota is waiting to speak so I will finish—I want to say, in the midst of all that is happening in this country now, there are some who perhaps get discouraged about this process of ours. And I understand why that can be the case. It is an unusual process.

A free and open democratic society is in some cases a society that does not look good from time to time. And yet, if you look at our system through a couple hundred years of very successful democracy, you see as democracies pass through angst and anxiety and pain and suffering and all the other things, it tends to make an open and democratic society make tough, thoughtful decisions about its future.

We have abolished slavery. We have survived depressions. We have defeated Hitler. We have cured polio. We have sent people to the Moon. I mean, we can talk a lot about what this country has endured and what this country has done.

My only point is, I do not think any of us ought to at this point in time be discouraged about democracy and about Congress and about our Government and about the press and about all the institutions in our lives. It is a good place to be. I do not know of anybody who wants to go elsewhere. I do not know of anybody who wants to exchange it for some other location in the world.

We should not be discouraged. Our job, it seems to me, is to do our work for the American people. And there is plenty of work to do. I have mentioned some—education, health care, finish the job on fiscal policy, deal with highways, deal with campaign finance reform, and more. And that is just a start.

I am here and I am ready, and I hope my colleagues feel the same. We ought to join hands and say there are things that Democrats and Republicans believe in and can do together. And we will be persuaded to do that if we can just turn off the rap music, turn off the rap that one side is all wrong and the other side is all right, one side is big spenders and the other side is not.

I finally say this. I do not think there is a plugged nickel's worth of difference between the two aisles in the U.S. Senate—Republicans and Democrats—in terms of how much they want to spend. Is there a difference on what they want to spend money for? Absolutely. But I will guarantee you, for everybody who stands up on one side of the aisle wanting to spend money on one program, there is somebody on the other side standing there saying, "No. I want it spent on my priorities." What we need to do is join together and, through this process, find the right priorities for this country's future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator is recognized to speak for 10 minutes.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

ARTICLE BY ROBERT REICH

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article in this past Sunday's New York Times Magazine, "When Naptime Is Over, The placid public mood is an illusion. Real Issues rumble beneath the calm and could soon send a wake-up call," by Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows;

[From the New York Times Magazine, Jan. 25, 1998]

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO POLITICS?

(By Robert B. Reich)

There's no longer any political news, a reporter friend confided recently, explaining why "human interest" stories were oozing like syrup across his newspaper's front pages. We're in the Bland Decade now, a time when citizens march on Washington not to affect politics but to vow they'll be better people and when politicians speak out mainly to urge niceness: volunteer your time, enter into dialogues on race, hire someone off welfare, please. Apparently we need little more than charity, moral uplift and perhaps a modest program or two. Politics is dead, or so it seems.

The easiest explanation for this torpor is that the nation is fat, like an overstuffed bear starting hibernation. It's no longer the economy, stupid. Six years ago, a prolonged recession hurt white-collar workers, giving some urgency to the politics of "change." Prosperity, though, is a powerful sedative. Forget politics for now, we seem to be saying. Let's compare stock portfolios, banter about culture and identity and tut-tut over problems decades hence, like an insolvent Social Security trust fund or excessive greenhouse gases.

The great economic contests have been won. Communism vanished before it was even vanquished. The Japanese competitive threat is now a sorry heap of bad debt. European welfare states heave under double-digit unemployment. And here in the land of plenty we've never had it so good. Wealth is exploding, unemployment is at a 24-year low, inflation is quiescent (the Federal Reserve Board chairman, Alan Greenspan, publicly raised concerns about *deflation*), the stock market is riding high. American capitalism is the envy of the world.

But look more closely and the easy explanation falls short. Most Americans don't have it so good. They have jobs, but most wages and benefits are stuck or continue to drop. Wealth has exploded at the top, but the wages of people in the bottom half are lower today in terms of purchasing power than they were in 1989, before the last recession. This is in sharp contrast to every previous recovery in the postwar period. Corporate downsizing and mass layoffs are still the order of the day, which partly explains why so few workers demand raises in this tight labor market. They'd rather keep their jobs.

The reality is that Wall Street's advance hasn't been widely shared. The richest 1 percent hold more than 35 percent of the nation's wealth. The typical middle-class family has no more than $7,000 in stocks and $12,500 in mutual funds, according to a 1995 survey by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department. Even the recent market surge isn't likely to have changed this very much, given what has happened to wages.

Whatever savings Americans do have are imperiled by hospital bills. A growing portion of the public lacks health insurance—in 1989, 33 million Americans under age 65 were without it; by 1996, 41.3 million. (The President's proposal to extend Medicare coverage to early retirees and displaced workers as young as 55, which would be the largest expansion in 25 years, is expected to add only 300,000 to the rolls.)

Despite the boom, inequality has widened. The nation's poverty rate is slightly higher than it was before the last recession. In 1989, 12.6 million, or 19.6 percent, of the nation's children lived in poverty; now it's 14.5 million, or 20.5 percent. The Conference of Mayors reports rising demand for food and shelter among the homeless. And the successes of the civil rights movement notwithstanding, today's urban schools are more racially segregated than in the 1980's.

So why, then, the prevailing political somnolence? Traditional politics has been all about who's gaining and who's losing. Yet it has lately become unfashionable, indeed in poor taste, to notice such things. In the present upbeat climate, downbeat data are slightly subversive. It is necessary to minimize all worry about the economy lest the public lose confidence, a perfect tautology. Bankers and business leaders have become cheerleaders in the nationwide pep rally. Onward! Upward!

Recent polls show, accordingly, high rates of consumer confidence. A record 40 percent of consumers queried in the Conference Board's December survey called jobs "plentiful," although, tellingly, only 28 percent expected their own wages to rise. These are the ones who have heard the distant roar of surging wealth and assume that the rising tide will lift them, too—which may explain the record level of consumer debt. Personal bankruptcies are also at a record high.

Will politics revive when the economic tide ebbs and hardships appear like shipwrecks on the tidal flats? Not necessarily. Even in 1992, with the nation mired in recession, political engagement was grudging. Americans wanted "change" to get the economy moving again. But there was no sense of moral urgency. It was simply time to replace old management with new. Most Americans had long before stopped believing in government as a force for much good in their lives.

Some people will say we don't need a vital politics to be a vital society. We can expand the circle of prosperity through grass-roots moral activism, spearheaded by community groups, socially responsible businesses, not-for-profits, religious organizations and compassionate individuals—perhaps all deftly linked by fax and modem, a "virtual" social movement. Commentators rightly stress the importance of such civic engagement. But they make a serious mistake labeling it as an alternative to politics. Throughout our history, civic activism has been the precursor, and the propellant, of political movements.

Almost a century ago, American politics appeared similarly listless despite growing social problems. As today, the economy was booming, jobs were plentiful and vast fortunes were being accumulated. Yet real wages had stopped growing, and the gulf between rich and poor was widening into a chasm. New technologies (steam engines, railway locomotives, the telephones, steam turbines, electricity) were transforming the nation, pulling families off the farms and immigrants from aboard and depositing many into fetid slums. Wall Street magnates were consolidating their empires. Government was effectively bought by large corporations, and the broad public was deeply cynical. William McKinley won re-election—legened has it, on a pledge to "stand pat"—and as the century closed, the nation seemed politically comatose.

Within three years, however, there was an outburst of reform: muckrakers like Lincoln Steffens and Ida Tarbell exposed corruption, and the middle class demanded fundamental change; small businessmen railed at monopolies; Wisconsin's crusading Governor, Robert La Follette, enacted legislation regulating health and safety in factories; Oregon limited the hours of work for women (no more than 10 per day); Theodore Roosevelt, McKinley's energetic Vice President who took over after McKinley was assassinated, set out to bust the trusts; suffragists marched; campaigns were organized for pure food and drug laws, workers' compensation and a minimum wage. Politics gained new life and meaning.

What happened? Indignation, which had been rising steadily, suddenly burst out and flooded the country. Citizens were already active at the local level, as they are today. Common morality simply couldn't abide the way things were going. Yet instead of opting for revolution or radical change, Americans preferred to spread the benefits of the emerging industrial economy, thereby saving capitalism from its own excesses.

Another foreshadowing occurred in the placid Eisenhower era. The overall economy was doing nicely then as well, even though its benefits had not reached the rural poor, many of whom were black. Politics had grown inert. Ike golfed. In 1954, the Supreme Court decided that separate schools were not equal. In 1957, Eisenhower dispatched Federal troops to Little Rock's Central High School. But who could have predicted that within a few years the civil rights movement would have remolded American politics with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965?

The next revival of American politics can be expected to follow a similar course. The current economic boom has bypassed too many; the gap between winners and losers has grown too wide. Fortunately, there is a common morality at the heart of this capitalist democracy that ultimately keeps us on track and keeps us together. Glimpses of it can be had even in these languid times. For example, a majority of Americans supported last year's increase in the minimum wage to $5.15, although only a tiny fraction stood to benefit. It was a matter of simple fairness. Or consider the broadscale indignation stirred up by revelations of garment sweatshops.

We got another glimpse this summer, when a sudden groundswell of support forced a skinflint Congress to extend health care to millions of children. And a majority of Americans supported the United Parcel Service strikers, not because the public is particularly fond of organized labor but because it seemed unfair for U.P.S. to pay its part-time work force so little.

Recall also the firestorm when, almost exactly two years ago, AT&T announced it was firing some 40,000 employees and then gave the boss stock options that raised his total compensation to $16 million, from $6.7 million. Recall, by contrast, the celebration of Aaron Feuerstein, the owner of Malden Mills in Lawrence, Mass., who, after his synthetic-fleece business burned to the ground, assured his employees that he'd stick by them until the factory was rebuilt.

The pressure keeps rising. A final glimpse came just before the holidays, when the public signaled unease about giving the President "fast track" authority to whisk trade treaties through Congress without amendment and most members of the House of Representatives, including many Republicans, refused to support it. That may be a mistake. Trade is good for America. But the public's negative reaction shouldn't be seen as a repudiation of free trade. It was, at bottom, a matter of fairness: trade hurts some people, and we haven't made adequate provision for the losers.

Trade may, in fact, be the precipitating issue this time around. The economic implosion in East Asia will continue to reverberate here, as bahts, won, rupiahs, ringgit and yen drop in value relative to dollars—one of the biggest price-cutting contests in world history. American consumers will have the benefit of bargain-basement sales, but the cheap imports will put additional downward pressure on the wages of lower-skilled Americans. The tumult also will crimp profits of American companies that export to the region, causing more layoffs here. If the Asian flu turns more deadly, the infection here will be all the worse. However resolved, the Asian crisis portends larger jolts, as the global economy absorbs the surging output of 1.2 billion Chinese—more than a fifth of the world's population. When the current recovery ends, the underlying reality will be starkly evident and the political debate surrounding trade will intensify.

To an extent, that debate has already begun. The tension between economic nationalism and globalism is emerging as one of the most significant fissures in American politics, and it runs through both parties—as shown by the current dispute over financing for the International Monetary Fund.

But it would be unfortunate indeed if the revival of American politics were to turn on the question of whether the nation should engage in more or less commerce with the rest of the world. The underlying choice is larger, more important and more subtle: ultimately, we must decide whether we want to slow the pace of globalization or else take bold steps to help today's losers share in the benefits of the new economy. I cannot predict the outcome of that great debate to come, but I can express a clear preference. It is that we expand the circle of prosperity and that we do so on a scale that matches the challenge.

A new nationalism founded on shared prosperity might, for example, support "re-employment insurance" that would enable people who lose their jobs to move to new ones with far less disruption and pain than is the norm today. (If the new job paid less, half the difference should be offset for a year by a wage subsidy.)

In that spirit, we could enlarge and expand the earned-income tax credit—a reverse income tax that makes work pay if you're at or near the bottom. We could bring a larger portion of the next generation into the circle of prosperity by rebuilding decaying schools and helping states equalize spending between rich and poor school districts. And we would make sure that everyone has access to adequate health care and child care.

To finance all of this—and move beyond the small, feel-good programs that lack adequate scale to make much of a difference—we could simply reverse the current trend in public finance and adopt a truly progressive tax system (including payroll taxes).

None of this will come easily or without a fight. But in the end, the nation will be stronger and better for bringing everyone, or nearly everyone, along. Future historians looking back on the Bland Decade will conclude that, as before, American politics wasn't really dead. It was only caught napping.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair. It is really a superb article.

THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I want to just speak briefly. I think we are all back. As the Senator from North Dakota said, I think most of us really are focused on the legislative work, Democrats and Republicans. I think that people want us to be focused on our work. But our work is connected to our conversations with people in our States, what people have said to us, and trying to connect what we do as legislators to the betterment of the lives of people that we serve.

Mr. President, I was impressed with Secretary Reich's piece because I have found in my travels in Minnesota and around the country that while all of the macroeconomic statistics look good—for that I am grateful; the GDP and other indicators of economic performance, the official levels of unemployment, a record low, so on and so forth—that in many ways we have a paradox which is that we also, at least since we started collecting social science data, we have the most stratification in our society that we have ever had.

We have the most glaring inequalities, and I think we have been moving to two Americas. It is not the other America that Michael wrote about in a very important book in 1963 about poverty, which I know the presiding officer has been concerned about, but it is two different Americas.

You have one America with mounting access to all the things that I suppose you could say make life richer in possibilities, and you have another America struggling to make ends meet.

You have one America that is barreling down the information superhighway, and you have another America without even the rudimentary skills to participate in our economy or to participate in our polity or to participate in our society.

You have one America with the economic resources to purchase the security of gated communities, living in gated communities, and you have another America that is beset by the decay of some of our very important social institutions which we have to rebuild if we are to rebuild communities, libraries, hospitals, and schools.

You have one America that is focused on a booming stock market, and you have another America that is faced with the insecurities of a job market still with all of the downsizing and the latest news about AT&T, I think, laying off 18,000 employees.

You have one America that every summer sort of plans a trip to Asia or Europe, and you have another America where the discussion is, "How can we scrape up enough money to take the family to a ballgame?"

Mr. President, I find that, in just touring the cafes in Minnesota—I want to draw from my data, which is now less social science data and just conversations with people. You know, most people in the country—poor people, middle-income people, professional people, it does not really matter—from really almost all walks of life, I think first and foremost, are very focused on how they can earn a decent living and how they can give their children the care they know their children need and deserve.

To me, that translates into lots of specific conversations. I could talk a lot about health care. But there is one conversation I cannot forget. It was with a woman. I met her a year ago. It was very sad. Her husband is about 40 and found out he had cancer and was given a couple months to live. I met them about 2 months ago, and she reintroduced me to her husband, who is now in a wheelchair.

She said, "You know, Senator, the doctors said that my husband had only 2 months to live, but he's a real fighter. And I want you to come on over and say hello." You know how that happens when we are out and about. Of course, I did and was pleased to talk to him. Then she took me aside and said, "Every day it is just a nightmare. I'm constantly on the phone trying to find out what my insurance companies will cover, what they will not cover. It is a constant battle."

Mr. President, I think, therefore, health care is very much on the agenda. I do not have time to talk about all the specifics of policy, but I am very interested in making sure it is not just bottom-line medicine. I am very interested in all of us, Democrats and Republicans, making sure there is some consumer protection and also that the caregivers are able to give the kind of care they went to medical school or nursing school to be able to give.

I am very interested in our really thinking about a strategy, going into the next century, about how do we obtain universal coverage, comprehensive care. And I think it can be a decentralist thrust with States figuring out ways to do it within a national framework, within a package of benefits, affordable, and with consumer protection. That is a bill I look forward to introduce.

I think we can do better. I loved working with Senator DOMENICI on mental health. I tell you, there is an area I am really looking forward to do work on as a legislator and that Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL is going to be working with me on. That is in the whole area of the Substance Abuse Parity Act, trying to make sure that people—it is just wrong. People who are struggling with alcoholism, for example, where they get detox treatment once or twice, then there is no longer any coverage.

We can do much better. There is a tremendous amount of discrimination here. We can do much better as a nation. I look forward to working on that legislation.

Mr. President, above and beyond health care, I would like to talk just a little bit about jobs, and jobs with decent wages. I have had a chance to travel. It has been the best work I have done outside of Minnesota.

I would love to travel with you, I say to the Presiding Officer, because I think as a Senator from Indiana you have focused a lot on these issues. We may have different approaches, but you have just a tremendous commitment to this.

I have traveled in a lot of low-income communities from Letcher County, KY, where my wife's family is from, to Appalachia to Chicago to Baltimore to East L.A., to Watts to urban and rural Minnesota to the delta in Mississippi.

There are two questions people ask in these communities. One of those questions is, "Where are the jobs that we can be trained for and that we can find to support our families on?"

I think raising the minimum wage—I was speaking with Senator KENNEDY about this—is absolutely on the mark. I think we must do it. I think it is a matter of economic justice. It is also true, however, as William Julius Wilson, in his fine book about a year and a half ago, makes the fine point that in some communities and ghettos there is the disappearance of work, there is no work.

So the question is, how do we build the human capital and make sure there are jobs that are community-building jobs? And how do we link that with the private sector? How do we ultimately make sure people are able to get transitional jobs for a year to build those skills, to build community? And we can then at the same time have the job training and track the private-sector capital in those communities.

I think it is a real priority, if we are concerned about these issues of race and gender and poverty and children. They are all far more correlated and interrelated than some of us want to admit.

Another area I want to talk about is the President's initiative on child care. Two points I would like to make.

Again, I do not do justice to the policy debate which we will have, but at least I want to just try to survey this.

I think the President has really laid forth some good proposals. I think we can do more and should do more, and I

want to talk about that. We have to make sure that the tax credits, if that is the way we go, are refundable so families with incomes under $28,000 who did not have a tax liability can benefit.

I think the after-school care is extremely important. But you know what? I read in the paper—and maybe, Mr. President, you are a part of this that Senator CHAFEE and others were talking about—how it is we also can target resources to families where one parent stays at home. I think that is an excellent idea.

I met with so many couples in Minnesota where one of them will say, "You know, Senator, one of us is not working. We understand why both parents work, but we made the decision not to. We forgo the income. We think one of us should be at home during these early years. And why not have some of the funding stream go toward providing us with some assistance?"

I think that is an excellent idea. I hope we can really kind of combine efforts and do something about early childhood development. It is so important.

The medical evidence—Mr. President, you have held some hearings—it is irrefutable and irreducible. We have to do well for these children. They are all God's children. And if we do not do well for these children—the private sector, public sector, community based—by age 3, many of them will never be ready for school. They will never be ready for life. And I cannot think of a more important investment. I want to talk some about that as well.

Mr. President, I will finish up because I only reserved 10 minutes for myself. I just say to my colleagues, there is so much work to be done, so many problems.

I was in East Grand Forks the other day. Last year we were on the floor talking about the floods. It was heartbreaking. James Lee Witt has just done a great job. I so appreciate what he has done for Minnesota. And FEMA came through. But you know what? We lost a third of our housing stock from the flood in East Grand Forks. There are seniors on fixed incomes, low-income people. They cannot find housing. We are going to have to build that housing. There is going to be State money. Maybe we can leverage Federal money.

There are many real problems, many important issues that face families in Minnesota and all across the country. I have delineated some of them.

I urge my colleagues, get out on the floor, do the work in committee, bring the bills and the amendments out here. Just do the work.

I can't resist this, since the Chair happens to be one of my very good friends and is about to tell me I am out of time, I look forward to debating Senator COATS out here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. BRYAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for a period of time not to exceed 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BRYAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1572 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BRYAN. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. WELLSTONE pertaining to the submission of S. 1573 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. KENNEDY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair would just inform the Senator that, under a previous order, each Senator is allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Thank you very much. I am pleased to hear it. I will not take the 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

OUR CRUMBLING SCHOOLS

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, tonight the President of the United States will address the country in the State of the Union Address and much of the focus of that speech, we have been told, will be on the subject of education, something that I know the Presiding Officer has worked on over the years, and certainly I have worked on as my No. 1 priority since I came to the U.S. Senate. I am really pleased, however, that among the items in the area of education that the President will touch on is a particular item that I have labored long and hard on since I came to the Senate, and that is the issue of our crumbling schools.

The President will tonight propose an initiative to rebuild our crumbling schools by making available support for local efforts to deal with the facilities and the infrastructure of their schools in the respective parts of the country.

The centerpiece of the proposal that will be announced tonight is a plan to provide tax credits to help stimulate local school construction and modernization. The plan will help States and school districts address the enormous backlog of deferred maintenance to upgrade their schools to incorporate and accommodate modern technologies and to build new classrooms to accommodate soaring enrollment where appropriate.

The plan—and I would like to talk specifically about it—will propose the creation of a new class of zero-interest bonds which can be used exclusively for school facilities and infrastructure development. Instead of receiving interest payments on these bonds, purchasers of the bonds will instead receive Federal income tax credits.

This innovative plan will stimulate at least $22 billion—$22 billion—worth of school improvements over the next several years. Frankly, it is exactly the kind of new thinking and the kind of new partnership and innovative and creative financing that we will need to address the issue of our crumbling school infrastructure.

I would like to take a moment to revisit how this issue came about. Coming out of State and local government, I was very concerned that we maintain, on the one hand, the values of local control of education, but at the same time find some way to relieve the pressure on the local property taxes that elementary and secondary education so often requires.

Among the issues that seemed to me to be the most pressing and the most difficult for local districts to address was the question of school facilities. The buildings in which many of our children go to school are literally falling down around them. Most of these buildings have been built a generation ago when I was in school or the Presiding Officer was in school. Frankly, over time, these things just wear down. So you can see all over, certainly all over my State of Illinois and, indeed, all over the country, that our school facilities are crumbling right in front of us. Students talk about the fact that the windows are broken or the roof leaks or the lights—it even got to the point where Charles Schulz with the Peanuts cartoon did a series where Peppermint Patty is sitting in the classroom and raindrops are falling on her head.

The point is, we can do better. So I commissioned a study by the General Accounting Office to look at the issue of crumbling schools. They went around and did a really exhaustive and highly acclaimed survey in which they documented $112 billion worth of deferred needs in terms of our school infrastructure; $112 billion required to rebuild the schools, to fix the plants, to provide our children with an environment that is suitable for learning.

In addition to the aesthetics of it, that we want our kids to go to classrooms that are comfortable, consider for a moment that you cannot use a computer unless you plug it into the wall. If the electrical system is not there, then we will be denying our youngsters the opportunity to get trained, denying our work force the opportunity to be trained to compete in this global economy. It seems to me this is something of national importance and import and that it makes sense for the Federal Government to weigh in to help local districts meet the needs, the $112 billion worth of needs, all over the country.

I started down this trail attempting to get a modest appropriation. I went in and got $600 million authorized and $100 million appropriated to this end. Then in the Congress of 1994, the $100 million that I had gotten appropriated for rebuilding the crumbling schools was taken back in the rescission package. So there was no money for it.

We started the ball up the hill again, and the second time around, we were able to get the support of the White House and the Department of Education, and they proposed a $5 billion tax credit program to do this. That went up through committee and then eventually fell because of the lack of support last year.

We have continued with this. Frankly, at every step of the way, even though we failed to actually get the full appropriation that we wanted, the public support built and built and built to the point that in the last session of the Congress, when we passed the Tax Relief Act, we were able in that bill to get some support for local districts going into the capital markets to borrow money. We changed the arbitrage rules a little bit. We raised the bond cap. So we were able to get some financial support but certainly not the $5 billion that we had hoped to get.

Now the issue has gotten to the top of the pop charts, and polling data tells us again that 79 percent of the American people think there is an appropriate Federal role in rebuilding educational facilities.

This proposal that the President will announce tonight will allow us to access about $22 billion—now, that is not the whole $112 billion—but $22 billion will help local districts repair their crumbling schools without having to increase property taxes. It seems to me that that is an absolutely appropriate role for us to take, given the national security interests, given the future of our work force, given the national stakes in all of this. If we can begin to have Federal support of elementary and secondary education in ways that preserve local control of education but allow us to contribute national resources to the enormous task that is before us, then we would have done our duty, frankly, by this next generation.

So I am very pleased that the creative financing proposal that will be mentioned tonight represents a new direction, a new partnership. I believe firmly that the days when we can point fingers and say, "Well, it's the local taxpayers' fault that the schools are falling down," or, "It's the State government's fault the schools are falling down," or somebody else's fault, the days of fingerpointing are over. In fact, my mother used to say, when you point a finger, you always have three of them pointing back at yourself.

If we can begin to have a new kind of partnership where States and local governments and the National Government work together to provide our children with the education that they need and the work force development that our country deserves, we will have discharged our responsibility to them and to the future of this Nation.

We certainly have every opportunity with this proposal to go forward and pass this legislation. I am hopeful that we will do better this time around in achieving bipartisan support for the approach that says this is a new partnership; this new partnership will maintain local control and will give, if anything, local governments some financial support with regard to the challenge they face in rebuilding their crumbling schools.

I am very excited about it, but having had two previous successes that were undone, I am not going to get overly excited until such time as the President actually signs the bill. But I am very encouraged, Mr. President, that the force of this idea has continued to support it and the force of this concept means, I think, that it is an idea whose time has come. That being the case, I feel very confident that, if not now, we will eventually pass legislation to rebuild our crumbling schools so that America's schoolchildren are given suitable environments in which they can learn.

With that, I thank the Chair and I yield the floor. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVE JUDGMENT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment on statements made earlier today by Senator LEAHY concerning Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr. Senator LEAHY has challenged Mr. Starr on a number of items, matters of very substantial concern.

I telephoned Mr. Starr to find out what the facts were. Both Senator LEAHY and I are on the Judiciary Committee, which has oversight over the Department of Justice and also the independent counsel. Senator LEAHY began his presentation by noting that he had spent nearly a decade as a prosecutor, and I have a similar background, actually a little longer than a decade, but about the same. Senator LEAHY then commented about his concern about law enforcement being nonpartisan and nonideological, and on the facts. I most certainly agree with Senator LEAHY on his assertions to that extent. Then Senator LEAHY proceeded to criticize Mr. Starr for conducting a partisan investigation, for making leaks to the press, by coordinating the investigation with what is going on in the civil case involving Ms. Paula Jones, and charging that there was a sting operation to engage the President of the United States in secretly recorded conversations. All of these are obviously very serious accusations.

Mr. President, it seems to me that the current controversy involving the President and Ms. Monica Lewinsky is something that ought to be put behind the country at the earliest possible time. I made public statements last week when the President was questioned about this matter, while Chairman Arafat was in his office, and said that I thought it inappropriate to have that question and bad practice for the President to respond to that question, and made public statements last week and over the weekend about what I consider to be an unwise media frenzy on this matter—that we all ought to wait and see what the facts are before coming to any conclusions, and in the interim the President ought to be permitted to carry out his duties because they are very, very important duties.

I agree with what Senator LEAHY said when he recited the issues of foreign policy, Iraq, the State of the Union, and the matters which the President has to deal with.

There have been many reports in the press about what Mr. Starr did and how he got into this investigation and whether his activities were an inappropriate extension of what he had been authorized to do prior to the time he took his first steps on this matter involving Ms. Monica Lewinsky. Mr. Starr told me this afternoon in a telephone conversation that he did engage in a consensual monitoring in the eastern district of Virginia on a conversation with Ms. Linda Tripp and Ms. Monica Lewinsky. It was a consensual monitoring because it was consented to by Ms. Linda Tripp. Mr. Starr told me that Ms. Linda Tripp had been a witness on independent counsel matters in the past involvinving the White House Travel Office and Mr. Foster, and that the consensual monitoring was undertaken to corroborate what Ms. Linda Tripp had told Mr. Starr independently.

Mr. Starr said it was an appropriate exercise of his existing jurisdiction because in his investigation involving

Mr. Webr Hubble, Mr. Hubble's situation involved a matter where an individual was involved in providing job arrangements for Mr. Hubble outside the District of Columbia with a certain prospective employer. Mr. Starr said that the same person was involved in providing a job opportunity for Ms. Monica Lewinsky outside the District of Columbia with the same prospective employer and that this connection was sufficient for Mr. Starr to proceed with this consensual monitoring, which Mr. Starr pointed out was done professionally by the FBI and, as Mr. Starr described it, in a completely appropriate manner. Mr. Starr advised that he then took this matter to the Department of Justice after he had completed the consensual monitoring.

Mr. President, I will not become involved here in what the factual allegations are, what Ms. Tripp said or what Ms. Lewinsky said, because the issue which concerns me and the thrust of what Senator LEAHY complained about is the propriety of Mr. Starr's activity, and that need not involve the allegations and the substance. I think there has already been enough talk about that, in any event.

Mr. Starr then advised that he took the tape recordings to the Department of Justice, met with the senior attorney and the public integrity section. There was a collaborative determination between the Department of Justice and independent counsel as to who should carry out the further investigation. Mr. Starr advised that the Attorney General then asked the special court of the District of Columbia Circuit to specifically enlarge Mr. Starr's jurisdiction so that he could proceed with this investigation.

Now, we all know that Attorney General Reno has been very circumspect in the independent counsel issue as to appointment and as to extending jurisdiction—that has been a subject matter which has been talked about on this floor a great deal, to a substantial extent by this Senator. But the facts as Mr. Starr outlined them are that he proceeded in this way just as outlined, which is entirely appropriate because of the connection between what happened with Ms. Monica Lewinsky and what happened with Mr. Webster Hubble. That was obviously approved by Attorney General Reno when she then acted on information which Mr. Starr brought to her to request the special court of the District of Columbia Circuit to enlarge Mr. Starr's jurisdiction.

I asked Mr. Starr further about the other statements which Senator LEAHY had made. I now quote from the transcript:

> Senator LEAHY: I look at the continuing and very selective leaks and tactics employed by Mr. Starr's office over the last few years and particularly over the last few days.

I asked not only Mr. Starr about the leaks, which he emphatically denied, but also about the composition of the personnel who were handling this sensitive material, and Mr. Starr gave me some substantial detail about the attorneys who were on the matter in terms of their backgrounds and in terms of their professionalism, which Mr. Starr says is the effort made and he thinks is always the effort made, to avoid the leaks. We all know in Washington, DC, or for that matter, any place, the difficulty of establishing leaks, but if someone makes a contention, as Senator LEAHY does, as to leaks, the question is, what is the proof of those leaks.

Mr. Starr made an emphatic denial regarding the leaks, and spoke of the professionalism of the people that have the confidential information.

Senator LEAHY went on to say earlier today, "I have seen reports of two weekends ago that he," referring to Mr. Starr, "was intent on conducting a sting operation to engage the President of the United States in secretly recorded conversations. Have we sunk this low, Mr. President, that we would do things like this?"

I asked Mr. Starr about that, and he emphatically denied it. I, too, have seen press reports about the proposed sting operation, but I think it is very important that as we accord the President the presumption of innocence and as we look for proof before coming to any judgments about anyone, that the same thing apply to Mr. Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, and that a serious accusation about the sting operation ought to have some authentication and verification before it is made on the floor of the U.S. Senate. At least that is my opinion.

Senator LEAHY went on earlier today saying, "I have seen complaints," he is referring to Mr. Starr, "he sought to curse a young woman"—I asked Kenneth Starr about that, and again he denied it in absolute terms—"and threatened her mother and father if she did not cooperate." Again, Mr. Starr denied that in absolute terms.

Senator LEAHY then went on to say, "Mr. Starr's office seems oddly coordinated to aid the civil lawsuit against the President involving the Miss Paula Jones case." Again I asked Mr. Starr about that, and it has been denied.

Mr. President, I make these comments after talking to Kenneth Starr, particularly to state for the record exactly how Mr. Starr got into this matter on the consensual monitoring. A consensual monitoring under Virginia law is appropriate when one party to the conversation agrees to it so that in the action by Mr. Starr and the FBI agents in recording the conversation of Ms. Monica Lewinsky and Ms. Linda Tripp, where Ms. Linda Tripp has consented to it—that was a lawful consensual monitoring—and as explained by Mr. Starr, the nexus or connection justifying his conduct was because the same person had suggested providing a job opportunity for Ms. Monica Lewinsky with the same employer who had made similar activity with respect to Mr. Webster Hubble.

It would be my hope that as this matter proceeds, that there would be a toning down of the decibel level and a real effort made to find out what the facts are before accusations are made against anybody. I think that applies to President Clinton, as I said so last week and over the weekend, and applies to Mr. Starr, and there has been a concern expressed that there is now an orchestrated effort made to discredit Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr. I do not know whether that is true or not. There have been a number of statements coming out, but whatever the charges and accusations that were made against anybody—President Clinton, Independent Counsel Starr, anyone—they ought to be backed up by the facts and not a recitation of something that appeared in the newspaper where we know of the questionable reliability of what appears in the press.

The real issue here is not necessarily what Mr. Starr has done but what the underlying facts are on the substantive matter at issue. If Mr. Starr has acted in an inappropriate manner, that can be reviewed at some time. When you deal with issues such as those involved here, we are not looking at a respective criminal case where the admissible evidence is judged on certain standards. We are looking at a real determination to find what the facts are so that we can make a determination as to what ought to be done in this matter.

It is my view that once the facts are asserted, there will be general agreement about what the conclusions ought to be. But it is not the Independent Counsel's conduct at issue here. I think the Independent Counsel ought to conduct himself in a manner which comports with the manner of decency. That is his job and responsibility. Also, I think that he is entitled not to be vilified in newspaper headlines or newspaper stories. But the facts ought to be ascertained. The facts as Mr. Starr outlines them to me justify the steps that he took. That is not my view alone; that is corroborated by what Attorney General Reno has done in the case.

Mr. President, in the absence of any Senator on the floor seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 submitted sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 84

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to lie on the table.

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of the 105th Congress, distinguished guests, my fellow Americans:

Since the last time we met in this chamber, America has lost two patriots and fine public servants. Though they sat on opposite sides of the aisle, Representatives Walter Capps and SONNY BONO shared a deep love for this House and an unshakeable commitment to improving the lives of all our people. In the past few weeks they have been eulogized; tonight, let us send a message to their families and friends—let us celebrate their lives, and give thanks for their service to their nation.

For 209 years, it has been the President's duty to report to you on the State of the Union. Because of the hard work and high purpose of the American people, these are good times for America. We have more than 14 million new jobs. The lowest unemployment in 24 years. The lowest core inflation in 30 years. Incomes are rising, and we have the highest homeownership in history. Crime has dropped for a record five years in a row, and the welfare rolls are the lowest in 27 years. Our leadership in the world is unrivaled. The state of our union is strong.

But with barely 700 days left in the 20th Century, this is not a time to rest; it is a time to build, to build the America within our reach.

An America where everybody has a chance to get ahead with hard work. Where every citizen can live in a safe community. Where families are strong, schools are good, and all young people can go on to college. An America where scientists find cures for diseases from diabetes to Alzheimers to AIDS. An America where every child can stretch a hand across a keyboard and reach every book ever written, every painting ever painted, every symphony ever composed.

Where government provides opportunity, and citizens honor the responsibility to give something back to their communities. An America which leads the world to new heights of peace and prosperity.

This is the America we have begun to build; this is the America we can leave to our children—if we join together to finish the work at hand. Let us strengthen our nation for the 21st Century.

Rarely have Americans lived through so much change, in so many ways, in so short a time. Quietly but with gathering force, the ground has shifted beneath our feet, as we move into an information age, a global economy, a truly new world.

For five years now, we have met the challenge of these changes as Americans have at every turning point—by renewing the very idea of America; widening the circle of opportunity, deepening the meaning of our freedom, forging a more perfect union.

We have shaped a new kind of government for the Information Age. I thank the Vice President for his leadership and the Congress for its support in building a government that is leaner, more flexible, a catalyst for new ideas. Most of all, a government that gives the American people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

We have moved past the sterile debate between those who say government is the enemy and those who say government is the answer. My fellow Americans, we have found a third way. We have the smallest government in 35 years, but a more progressive one. We have a smaller government, but a stronger nation.

We are moving steadily toward an even stronger America in the 21st Century. An economy that offers opportunity. A society rooted in responsibility. And a nation that lives as a community.

AN ECONOMY THAT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY

First, Americans in this chamber and across our nation have pursued a new strategy for prosperity: Fiscal discipline to cut interest rates and spur growth. Investments in education and skills, in science and technology and transportation, to prepare our people for the new economy. New markets for American products and American workers.

When I took office, the deficit for 1998 was projected to be $357 billion, and heading higher. This year, our deficit is projected to be $10 billion, and heading lower.

For three decades, six Presidents have come before you to warn of the damage deficits pose to the nation. Tonight, I come before you to announce that the federal deficit—once so incomprehensibly large that it had eleven zeroes—will be, simply . . . zero.

We will submit to Congress for 1999 the first balanced budget in 30 years.

And if we hold fast to fiscal discipline, we may balance the budget this year—four years ahead of schedule.

Turning a sea of red ink into black is no miracle. It is the product of hard work by the American people and of two visionary actions in Congress—the courageous vote in 1993 that led to a cut in the deficit of 90% . . . and the historic bipartisan balanced budget agreement passed by this Congress. And if we maintain our resolve, we will produce balanced budgets as far as the eye can see.

We must not go back to unwise spending, or untargeted tax cuts, that risk reopening the deficit. Last year, we enacted targeted tax cuts, so that typical middle class families will now have the lowest tax in 20 years.

My plan to balance the budget next year includes new investments and new tax cuts targeted to the needs of working families: for education, child care, and the environment.

But whether the issue is tax cuts or spending, I ask all of you to meet this test: approve only those priorities that can actually be accomplished without adding a dime to the deficit.

If we balance the budget for next year, it is projected that we will then have a sizeable surplus in the years immediately afterward. What should we do with this projected surplus?

I have a simple four word answer: Save Social Security first.

Tonight, I propose that we reserve 100% of the surplus—that's every penny of any surplus—until we have taken all the measures necessary to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st Century.

Let us say to all Americans watching tonight—whether you are 70 . . . or 50 . . . or just beginning to pay into the system—Social Security will be there when you need it. Let us, tonight, make this commitment: Social Security first.

I urge all Americans to join us—in facing these issues squarely, and forming a true consensus on how to proceed. We'll start by conducting nonpartisan forums in every region of the country, and I hope that lawmakers of both parties will participate. We will host a White House conference on Social Security in December. And one year from now, I will convene the leaders of Congress to craft historic, bipartisan legislation to achieve a landmark for *our* generation—a Social Security system that is strong in the 21st Century.

In an economy that honors opportunity, *all* Americans must be able to reap the rewards of prosperity.

Because these times are good, we can afford to take one simple, sensible step to help millions of workers struggling to provide for their families: We should raise the minimum wage.

The information age is first and foremost an education age . . . in which education must start at birth and continue throughout a lifetime.

Last year, from this podium, I said education was our highest priority. I laid out a ten point plan to move us

forward, and urged us all to make sure politics ends at the schoolhouse door.

Since then, this Congress and the American people have responded, in the most important year for education in a generation . . . expanding public school choice . . . opening the way to 3,000 charter schools . . . working to connect every classroom to the information superhighway . . . committing to expand Head Start to 1 million children . . . launching America Reads, sending thousands of college students into our schools to make sure all our 8 year olds can read.

Last year I proposed, and you passed . . . 220,000 new Pell Grant scholarships for deserving students. Student loans are already less expensive and easier to repay, and now you can deduct the interest. Families all over America can put savings into our new, tax free education IRAs. And this year, for the first two years of college, families will get a $1,500 tax cut—a Hope Scholarship that will cover the cost of most community college tuition. And for junior and senior year, graduate school, and job training, there's a lifetime learning credit.

So I have something to say to each and every American family listening tonight: your children can go on to college. If you know a child from a poor family, tell her not to give up. She can go to college. If you know struggling young parents who are worried they won't be able to save for their children's education, you tell them not to give up. Their children can go on to college. If you know somebody caught in a dead-end job, afraid he can't afford the classes that will get him better jobs for the rest of his life, tell him not to give up. He can go to college.

We can make college as universal as high school is today. And my friends, this will change the face of 21st Century America.

We have opened wide the doors of the world's best system of higher education. Now we must make our public elementary and secondary schools the best in the world, too—by raising standards, raising expectations, and raising accountability.

Thanks to the actions of this Congress last year, we will soon have, for the first time, a voluntary national test based on national standards in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math. Parents have a right to know whether their children are mastering the basics.

And every parent already knows the key: good teachers and small classes. Tonight I propose the first ever national effort to reduce class size in the early grades. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 new teachers who have passed a state competency test. With these teachers, we will reduce class size in the first, second, and third grades to an average of 18 students a class.

If I've got the math right, more teachers teaching smaller classes requires more classrooms. So I also propose a school construction tax cut to help communities modernize or build 5,000 schools.

We must also demand accountability. When we promote a child from grade to grade who hasn't mastered the work, we do that child no favors. It is time to end social promotion in America's schools.

Last year, in Chicago, they made that decision—not to hold children back, but to lift them up. Chicago stopped social promotion, and started mandatory summer school to help students who are behind to catch up. I proposed an effort to help other communities follow Chicago's lead. Let's say to them: Stop promoting children who don't learn, and we will give you the tools you need to make sure they do.

I also ask this Congress to support our effort to enlist colleges and universities to reach out to disadvantaged children starting in the 6th grade—to give them guidance and hope so they too can go on to college.

As we enter the 21st Century, the global economy requires us to seek opportunity not just at home, but in all the markets of the world. We must shape this global economy, not shrink from it. In the last five years, we have led the way in opening new markets, with 240 trade agreements that remove foreign barriers to products bearing the proud stamp, "Made in the USA."

Today, record high exports account for fully one third of our economic growth. I want to keep them going, because that's the way to keep American growing and to advance a safer, more stable world.

This is a great opportunity for America. I know there is opposition to more comprehensive trade agreements, rooted in two fears; first that our trading partners will have lower environmental and labor standards which will give them an unfair advantage in our markets—and do their own people no favors; and, second, that with more trade, more of our workers will lose their jobs and have to start over.

We should seek to advance worker and environmental standards around the world. It should be a part of our trade agenda. But we can't influence other countries' decisions if we send a message to them that we're backing away from trade.

This year, I will send legislation to Congress, and ask other nations to join us, to fight the most intolerable labor practice of all—abusive child labor.

We should also offer help and hope to those Americans temporarily left behind by the global marketplace, or by the march of technology.

That is why we have more than doubled funding for training dislocated workers since 1993—and if my new budget is adopted, we will triple it.

That is why we must do more, more quickly, to help workers who lose their jobs for any reason. We help communities when their military base closes. We ought to help them in the same way if their factory closes.

And that is why, again, I ask the Congress to continue its bipartisan work to consolidate the tangle of training programs into a GI Bill for Workers, a simple skills grant so people can move quickly to new jobs and higher incomes.

Change is not always easy, but we have to reap its benefits. And remember the big picture: While we have been entering into hundreds of new trade agreements, we have been creating millions of new jobs.

So this year we will forge new partnerships with Latin America, Asia and Europe. We should pass the new African Trade Act.

And I renew my request for the fast track negotiating authority necessary to open more new markets and create more new jobs, which every President has had for two decades.

Whether we like it or not, in ways that are mostly positive, the world's economies are more and more interconnected.

Today, an economic crisis anywhere can affect economies everywhere. Recent months have brought serious financial problems to Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and beyond.

Why should Americans be concerned about this?

First, these countries are our customers—and if they sink into recession, they won't be able to buy the goods we want to sell them. They are also our competitors—and if their currencies lose their value, the price of their goods will drop, flooding our market and others with cheap goods, making it tougher for our people to compete. Finally, they are our strategic partners. Their stability bolsters our security.

The American economy remains sound and strong—and I want to keep it that way. But because the turmoil in Asia will have an impact on all the world's economies, including ours, making that negative impact as small as possible is the right thing to do for a safer world—and the right thing to do for America.

Our policy is clear. No nation can recover if it does not reform itself. But when nations are willing to undertake serious economic reform, we should help them to do it. So I call on Congress to renew America's commitment to the International Monetary Fund.

Preparing for a far-off storm that may reach our shores is far wiser than ignoring the thunder until the clouds are overhead.

A SOCIETY ROOTED IN RESPONSIBILITY

A strong nation rests on the rock of responsibility.

A society rooted in responsibility must first promote the value of work, not welfare. We can be proud that after decades of finger pointing and failure,

together we ended the old welfare system. Now we are replacing welfare checks with paychecks.

Last year, after a record four year decline in welfare rolls, I challenged our nation to move two million more Americans off welfare by the year 2000. I am pleased to report that we have also met that goal—two years ahead of schedule.

This is a grand achievement, the sum of many acts of individual courage, persistence and hope. For 13 years, Elaine Kinslow of Indianapolis, Indiana was on and off welfare. Today, she is a dispatcher with a van company. She's saved enough money to move her family to a good neighborhood. And she's helping other welfare recipients get to work.

Elaine Kinslow and all those like her are the real heroes of the welfare revolution; there are millions just like her across America. I am happy she could join the First Lady tonight. Elaine, we are very proud of you.

We must all do more to make welfare reform a success—providing child care, helping families move closer to available jobs, challenging more companies to join the welfare-to-work partnership, increasing child support collections from deadbeat parents who have a duty to support their own children. I also want to thank Congress for restoring some benefits to immigrants who are here legally and working hard—and I ask you to finish the job this year.

We must make it possible for hardworking families to meet their most important responsibilities.

Two years ago, we helped guarantee that Americans keep their health insurance when they change jobs. Last year, we extended health care to up to 5 million children. This year, I challenge Congress to take the next historic steps.

160 million Americans are in managed care plans. These plans can save money and can improve care. But medical decisions should be made by medical doctors, not insurance company accountants.

I urge the Congress to write into law a Consumer Bill of Rights that says this: You have the right to know all your medical options—not just the cheapest. You have the right to choose the doctor you want for the care you need. You have the right to emergency room care, wherever and whenever you need it. You have the right to keep your medical records confidential. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

Millions of Americans between the ages of 55 and 65 have lost their health insurance. Some are retired; some are laid off; some lost their coverage when their spouses retire. After a lifetime of work, they are left with nowhere to turn. So I ask the Congress: let these hardworking Americans buy into the Medicare system. It won't add a dime to the deficit—but the peace of mind it will provide will be priceless.

Next, we must help parents protect their children from the gravest health threat they face: an epidemic of teen smoking, spread by multimillion dollar marketing campaigns.

So I challenge Congress: let's pass bipartisan, comprehensive legislation that will improve public health, protect tobacco farmers, and change the way tobacco companies do business forever. Let's do what it takes to bring teen smoking down. Let's raise the price of cigarettes by up to $1.50 a pack over the next ten years, with penalties on the tobacco industry if it keeps marketing to kids. Tomorrow, like every day, 3000 children will start smoking. 1000 of them will die early as a result. Let this Congress be remembered as the Congress that saved their lives.

In the new economy, most parents work, harder than ever. They face a constant struggle to balance their obligations to be good workers—and their even more important obligations to be good parents.

The Family and Medical Leave Act was the very first bill I signed into law. I ask you to extend the law to cover 10 million more workers, and to give parents time off for parent-teacher conferences and doctor's visits.

Child care is the next frontier. Last year, the First Lady and I hosted the very first White House conference on child care. From all corners of America, we heard the same message: we must raise the quality of child care and make it safer and more affordable.

Here is my plan: Help families to pay for child care for one million more children. Scholarships and background checks for child care workers, and a new emphasis on early learning. Tax credits for businesses that provide child care for their employees.

And a larger child care tax credit for working families—so that if you pass my plan a family of four with an income of $35,000 and high child care costs will no longer pay a penny of federal income tax.

You know, I have often wondered how my mother—as a young widow—would have been able to go away to school if my grandparents had not been able to care for me. She and I were lucky. How many other families never get that same opportunity? We don't know the answer to that question. But we do know what the answer should be: Not a single family should have to choose between the job they need and the child they love.

A society rooted in responsibility must provide safe streets, safe schools, safe neighborhoods.

We are pursuing a strategy of more police, tougher punishment and smarter prevention, with crimefighting partnerships with local law enforcement and citizen groups.

I can report to you tonight that it is working. Violent crime is down, robbery is down, assault is down, burglary is down . . . for five years in a row, all across America.

Now we need to finish the job of putting 100,000 more police on the streets.

Again I ask Congress to pass a juvenile crime bill that provides more prosecutors and probation officers to crack down on gangs, guns and drugs, and bar violent juveniles from buying guns for life.

And I ask you to dramatically expand our support for after-school programs. Most juvenile crime is committed between the hours of 3 in the afternoon and 8 at night. We can keep so many of our children out of trouble in the first place if we give them someplace to go other than the streets.

Drug use is on the decline. I thank General Barry McCaffrey for his leadership, and I thank this Congress for passing the biggest anti-drug budget in history. Now I ask for the resources to hire, 1,000 new border patrol agents, and to deploy sophisticated new technologies, to help close the door on drugs at our borders.

Police, prosecutors, and prevention programs, good as they are, can't work if the court system doesn't work. Today, there are large numbers of vacancies in the federal courts. Here is what the Chief Justice of the United States wrote: "[Judicial] vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice." I ask the United States Senate to heed this plea, and vote on the highly qualified judicial nominees before you, up or down.

We must exercise responsibility not only at home but abroad.

On the eve of a new century, we have the power and the duty to build a new era of peace and security. But today's possibilities are not tomorrow's guarantees.

America must stand up for its interests and stand against the poisoned appeals of extreme nationalism. We must combat an unholy axis of new threats from terrorists, international criminals and drug traffickers. These 21st Century predators feed on technology and the free flow of information, ideas and people. And they will be all the more lethal if weapons of mass destruction fall into their hands.

To meet these challenges, we are helping to write international rules of the road for the 21st Century, protecting those who join the family of nations, and isolating those who do not.

Within days, I will ask the Senate for its advice and consent to make Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic the newest members of NATO. For fifty years, NATO contained Communism and kept America and Europe secure. These three formerly Communist countries have said "yes" to democracy. I ask the Senate to say yes to them—our new allies.

By taking in new members and working closely with new partners, including Russia and Ukraine, NATO can

help to assure that Europe is a stronghold for peace in the 21st Century.

Next, I will ask Congress to continue its support for our troops and their mission in Bosnia. This Christmas, Hillary and I traveled to Sarajevo with Senator and Mrs. Dole and a bipartisan Congressional delegation. We saw children playing on the streets, where two years ago they were hiding from snipers and shells. Shops are filled with food, cafes alive with conversation.

The progress is unmistakable—but not yet irreversible. To take firm root, Bosnia's fragile peace still needs the support of American and allied troops when the current NATO mission ends in June. Senator Dole said it best: this is like being ahead in the fourth quarter of a football game. Now is not the time to walk off the field and forfeit the victory.

I wish all of you could have seen our troops in Tuzla. They are very proud of what they are doing in Bosnia. And America is very proud of them. One of those brave soldiers is sitting with the First Lady tonight—Army Sergeant Michael Tolbert. His father was a decorated Vietnam vet. After college in Colorado, he joined the Army. And last year, he led an infantry unit that stopped a mob of extremists from taking over a radio station that is a voice of democracy and tolerance in Bosnia.

In Bosnia and around the world, our men and women in uniform always do their mission well. Our mission must be to keep them well-trained and ready . . . to improve their quality of life . . . and to provide the 21st Century weapons they need to defeat any enemy.

I also ask Congress to join me in pursuing an ambitious agenda to reduce the serious threat of weapons of mass destruction.

This year, four decades after it was first proposed by President Eisenhower, a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty is within our reach. By ending nuclear testing, we can help to prevent the development of new and more dangerous weapons and make it more difficult for non-nuclear states to build them. I am pleased to announce that four former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—Generals John Shalikashvili, Colin Powell, David Jones and Admiral William Crowe—have endorsed this treaty. I ask the Senate to approve it—this year.

Together, we also must confront new hazards: chemical and biological weapons and the outlaw states, terrorists and organized criminals seeking to acquire them.

Saddam Hussein has spent the better part of this decade, and much of his nation's wealth, not on providing for the Iraqi people but on developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons—and the missiles to deliver them. The United Nations weapons inspectors have done a remarkable job, finding and destroying more of Iraq's arsenal than was destroyed during the Gulf War itself. Now, Saddam Hussein wants to stop them from completing their mission.

I know I speak for everyone in this chamber, Republicans and Democrats, when I say to Saddam Hussein: You cannot defy the will of the world. You have used weapons of mass destruction before. We are determined to deny you the capacity to use them again.

Last year, the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention to protect our soldiers and citizens from poison gas. Now, we must act to prevent the use of disease as a weapon of war and terror. The Biological Weapons Convention has been in effect for 23 years. The rules are good, but the enforcement is weak. We must strengthen it with a new international inspection system to detect and deter cheating.

In the months ahead, I will pursue our security strategy with old allies in Asia and Europe and new partners from Africa to India and Pakistan . . . from South America to China. And from Belfast, to Korea to the Middle East, America will continue to stand with those who stand for peace.

Finally, it's long past time to make good on our debt to the United Nations. More and more, we are working with other nations to achieve common goals. If we want America to lead, we must set a good example. As we see so clearly in Bosnia, allies who share our goals can also share our burdens. In this new era, our freedom and independence are actually enriched, not impoverished, by our increasing interdependence with other nations.

A NATION THAT LIVES BY COMMUNITY

Our Founders set America on a permanent course toward "A more perfect union." It is a journey we can only make together—living as one community.

First of all, we must continue to reform our government—the instrument of our national community.

Everyone knows elections have become too expensive, fueling a fundraising arms race. This year, by March 6, the Senate will vote on bipartisan campaign finance reform proposed by Senators MCCAIN and FEINGOLD. Let's be clear: a vote against McCain-Feingold is a vote for soft money, for the status quo. I ask you to strengthen our democracy and pass campaign finance reform.

Even more, we must address the reason for the explosion in campaign costs—the high cost of media advertising. I will formally request that the Federal Communications Commission act to provide free or reduced cost television time for candidates. The airwaves are a public trust, and broadcasters also have a responsibility to help strengthen our democracy.

Under the leadership of Vice President GORE, we have reduced the federal payroll by 300,000 workers, cut 16,000 pages of regulations, eliminated hundreds of programs, and improved the operations of virtually every agency. But we can do more.

Like every taxpayer, I am outraged by the reports of abuses by the IRS. We need some changes there: new citizen advocacy panels, a stronger taxpayer advocate, phone lines open 24 hours a day, relief for innocent taxpayers. Last year, by an overwhelming bipartisan margin, the House passed sweeping IRS reforms. This bill must not languish in the Senate. Tonight I challenge the Senate: pass our bipartisan package of IRS reforms as your first order of business.

A nation that lives as a community must value its communities.

For the past five years, we have worked to bring the spark of private enterprise into inner city and poor rural areas—with community development banks, more commercial loans into poor neighborhoods, cleanups of polluted sites for development. Under the continued leadership of the Vice President, we propose to triple the number of empowerment zones, which give businesses incentives to invest in poor areas and create jobs. We also should give poor families more help to move into homes of their own. And we should use tax cuts to spur the construction of more low income housing.

Last year this Congress took strong action to help the District of Columbia. Let us renew our resolve to make this capital city a great city for all who live and visit here.

Our cities are the vibrant hubs of our great metropolitan areas. They are still the gateways for new immigrants, from every continent, coming to work for their own American Dream. Let's keep our cities going strong into the 21st Century.

Our communities are only as healthy as the air our children breathe, the water they drink, the Earth they will inherit.

Last year, we put in place the toughest-ever controls on smog and soot. We moved to protect Yellowstone, the Everglades, Lake Tahoe. We expanded every community's right to know about the toxics that threaten their children.

Yesterday, our food safety plan took effect, using new science to protect consumers from dangers like e-coli and salmonella.

Tonight, I ask you to join me in launching a new Clean Water Initiative, a far-reaching new effort to clean our rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

Yet our overriding environmental challenge is a worldwide problem requiring worldwide action: the gathering crisis of global warming.

The vast majority of scientists have concluded unequivocally that if we do not reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, at some point in the next century we will disrupt our climate and put our children and grandchildren at risk. This past December, America led the world to reach a historic agreement committing nations to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions through market forces, new technology and energy efficiency.

We have it in our power to act right here, right now. I propose $6 billion in tax cuts and research and development to encourage innovation, renewable energy, fuel efficient cars, energy efficient homes.

Every time we have acted to heal our environment, pessimists have said it would hurt our economy. Well, today our economy is the strongest in a generation—and our air and water are the cleanest in a generation. Americans have always found a way to grow the economy and clean the environment at the same time. And when it comes to global warming, we'll do it again.

Finally, community means living by the defining American value—the ideal heard round the world—that we are all created equal.

Throughout our history, we have not always honored this ideal—and we have never fully lived up to it. Often it is easier to believe that our differences matter more than what we have in common. It may be easier, but it is wrong.

What must we do in our day and generation to make sure that America truly becomes one nation, even as we become more and more diverse?

The answer cannot be to dwell on our differences, but to build on our shared values. We all cherish family and faith, work and community, freedom and responsibility. We all want our children to grow up in a world where their talents are matched by their opportunities.

I have launched a national initiative on race to help us to recognize our common interests and bridge the opportunity gaps that keep us from becoming One America.

Let us begin by recognizing what we *still* must overcome. Discrimination against any American is un-American. We must vigorously enforce the laws that make it illegal. I ask your help to end the backlog at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. 60,000 of our fellow citizens are waiting in line for justice, and we should act now to end that wait.

We also should recognize that the greatest progress we can make toward building one America lies in the progress we make for all Americans.

When we open the doors of college to all Americans, when we rid all our streets of crime, when there are jobs available to people from all neighborhoods, when we make sure that all parents have the children they need, we help to build one nation.

We, in this chamber and in government, must do all we can to address this continuing American challenge. But we will only move forward if all Americans—including every one of you watching at home tonight—are also committed to this cause.

We must work together, learn together, live together, and serve together. On the forge of common enterprise Americans of all backgrounds can hammer out a common identity. We see that in the United States military, in the Peace Corps, in AmeriCorps, wherever people of all races and backgrounds come together in a shared endeavor.

With shared values, meaningful opportunities, honest communication, and citizen service, we can unite a diverse people in freedom and mutual respect. We are many. We must be one.

THE MILLENNIUM—GIFTS TO THE FUTURE

In that spirit, let us lift our eyes to the new millennium. How will we mark that passage?

This year, Hillary and I launched the White House Millennium Program to promote America's creativity and innovation, and to preserve our heritage and culture into the 21st Century. Our culture lives in every community—and every community has places of historic value that tell our stories as Americans. We should protect them. I am proposing a public private partnership to advance our arts and humanities and to celebrate the millennium by saving America's treasures, great and small.

While we honor the past, let us imagine the future.

The entire store of human knowledge now doubles every five years. In the 1980s, scientists identified the gene causing cystic fibrosis—it took 9 years. Last year, we located the gene that causes Parkinson's Disease—in only 9 days. Within a decade, "gene chips" will offer a roadmap for prevention of illness throughout a lifetime. Soon, we will be able to carry all the phone calls on Mother's Day on a single strand of fiber the width of a human hair. A child born in 1998 may well live to see the 22nd Century.

Tonight, as part of our gift to the millennium, I propose a 21st Century Research Fund for pathbreaking scientific inquiry. This will be the largest funding increase in history for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Cancer Institute. We have already discovered genes for breast cancer and diabetes. I ask you to support this initiative, so that ours will be the generation that finally wins the war against cancer . . . and begins a revolution in our fight against all deadly diseases.

As important as rapid scientific progress is, science must continue to serve humanity, never the other way around. We must prevent the misuse of genetic tests to discriminate against any American. And we must ratify the ethical consensus of the scientific and religious communities, and ban the cloning of human beings.

We should enable all the world's people to explore the far reaches of cyberspace.

The first time I reported to you on the State of the Union, only a handful of physicists used the World Wide Web. Now, in schools, libraries, homes and businesses, millions of Americans surf the Net every day.

We must give parents the tools they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. And the Internet is an exploding global marketplace of ideas as well as commerce.

I ask Congress to step up support for building the next generation Internet, which will operate up to a thousand times faster than today.

Even as we explore innerspace, in the new millennium we will open new frontiers in outer space.

Throughout history, humankind has had only one place to call home—the planet Earth. Beginning this year, 1998, men and women from 16 countries will build a foothold in the heavens—the international space station. With its vast expanses, scientists and engineers will set sail on this uncharted sea of limitless mystery and unlimited potential.

And this October, a true American hero, a veteran pilot of 149 combat missions, and one five hour space flight that changed the world, will return to the heavens.

Godspeed, John Glenn.

You will carry with you America's hopes, and on your uniform you will carry America's flag, marking the unbroken connection between the deeds of America's past and the daring of America's future.

Nearly 200 years ago, a tattered flag, its broad stripes and bright stars still gleaming through the smoke of a fierce battle, moved Francis Scott Key to scribble a few words on the back of an envelope. Those words became our national anthem. Today, that Star Spangled Banner, along with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are on display just a short walk from here. They are America's treasures, and we must save and preserve them for the ages. I ask all Americans to support our project to restore all of our treasures so that generations of the 21st Century can see for themselves the images and the words that are the old and continuing glory of America.

An America that has continued to rise through every age, against every challenge; a people of great works and greater possibilities, who have always found the wisdom and strength to come together as one nation—to widen the circle of opportunity—to deepen the meaning of our freedom—to form that more perfect union. Let that be our gift to the 21st Century.

God Bless You, and God Bless the United States of America.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 4,

1997, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA) has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 1604. An Act to provide for the division, use, and distribution of judgment funds of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan pursuant to dockets numbered 18–E, 58, 364, and 18–R before the Indian Claims Commission.

H.R. 1658. An Act to reauthorize and amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act and related laws.

H.R. 2265. An Act to amend the provisions of titles 17 and 18, United States Code, to provide greater copyright protection by amending the criminal copyright infringements provisions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2476. An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the National Transportation Safety Board and individual foreign air carriers to address the needs of families of passengers involved in aircraft accidents involving foreign air carriers.

H.R. 2796. An Act to authorize the reimbursement of members of the Army deployed to Europe in support of operations in Bosnia for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the members during the period beginning on October 1, 1996, and ending on May 31, 1997.

H.R. 2977. An Act to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to clarify public disclosure requirements that are applicable to the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration.

H.R. 2979. An Act to authorize acquisition of certain real property for the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3025. An Act to amend the Federal charter for Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc., and for other purposes.

H.R. 3034. An Act to amend section 13031 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, relating to customers user fees, to allow the use of such fees to provide for customs inspectional personnel in connection with the arrival of passengers in Florida, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 95. Joint Resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Chickasaw Trail Economic Development Compact.

H.J. Res. 96. Joint Resolution granting the consent and approval of Congress for the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to amend the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the enrolled bills were signed on December 4, 1997 during the adjournment of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 548. An Act to designate the United States courthouse located at 500 Pearl Street in New York City, New York, as the "Ted Weiss United States Courthouse".

H.R. 595. An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 475 Mulberry Street in Macon, Georgia, as the "William Augustus Bootle Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 1262. An Act to authorize appropriations for the Securities and Exchange Commission for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1476. An Act to settle certain Miccosukee Indian land takings claims within the State of Florida.

H.R. 2165. An Act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 3862 in the State of Iowa, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2007. An Act to amend the Act that authorized the Canadian River reclamation project, Texas, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow use of the project distribution system to transport water from sources other than the project.

H.R. 2207. An Act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act concerning a proposal to construct a deep ocean outfall off the coast of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

H.R. 2233. An Act to assist in the conservation of coral reefs.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 137. Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the urgent need for an international criminal tribunal to try members of the Iraqi regime for crimes against humanity.

H. Con. Res. 197. Concurrent Resolution calling for the resignation or removal from office of Sara E. Lister, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

At 4:01 p.m. a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1564. An Act to provide redress for inadequate restitution of assets seized by the United States Government during World War II which belonged to victims of the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolutions:

H. Res. 336. Resolution stating that the Clerk of the House informs the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

H. Res. 338. Resolution stating that the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Sonny Bono, a Representative from the State of California.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 201. Concurrent Resolution providing for an adjournment of both Houses.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 548. An Act to designate the United States courthouse located at 500 Pearl Street in New York City, New York, as the "Ted Weiss United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1262. An Act to authorize appropriations for the Securities and Exchange Commission for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1476. An Act to settle certain Miccosukee Indian land takings claims within the State of Florida; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 2165. An Act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 3862 in the State of Iowa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2007. An Act to amend the Act that authorized the Canadian River reclamation project, Texas, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow use of the project distribution system to transport water from sources other than the project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2207. An Act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act concerning a proposal to construct a deep ocean outfall off the coast of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2233. An Act to assist in the conservation of coral reefs; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following concurrent resolutions were read and referred as indicated:

H.Con. Res. 137. Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the urgent need for an international criminal tribunal to try members of the Iraqi regime for crimes against humanity; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.Con. Res. 197. Concurrent Resolution calling for the resignation or removal from office of Sara E. Lister, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measures were read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1530. A Bill to resolve ongoing tobacco litigation, to reform the civil justice system responsible for adjudicating tort claims against companies that manufacture tobacco products, and establish a national tobacco policy for the United States that will decrease youth tobacco use and reduce the marketing of tobacco products to young Americans.

H.R. 2709. An Act to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles, and to implement the obligations of the United States under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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–3282. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States,

transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to rescissions for fiscal year 1996; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, and to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3283. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of fund transfers; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3284. A communication from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a cost comparison at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3285. A communication from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a cost comparison at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3286. A communication from the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Deep Digger program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3287. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning appropriations legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3288. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment, dated October 16, 1997; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3289. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment, dated October 20, 1997; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3290. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning appropriations legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3291. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning appropriations legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3292. A communication from the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Adjustment of Status to That of Person Admitted for Permanent Residence" (RIN1125–AA20) received on November 6, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3293. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Temporary Exemption From Chemical Registration for Distributors of Pseudoephedrine and Phenylpropanolamine Products" (RIN2900–AH72) received on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3294. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General (Office of Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility Under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" received on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3295. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a proposal to transfer an aircraft carrier; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3296. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Death of Appellant During Pendency of Appeal" (RIN2900–AI86) received on October 21, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–3297. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Veterans and Reservist Education: Additional Educational Assistance While Serving the Selected Reserve" (RIN2900–AI79) received on October 24, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–3298. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Veterans Education: Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty" (RIN2900–AI90) received on October 28, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–3299. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Grants to States for Construction or Acquisition of State Home Facilities" (RIN2900–AI84) received on November 24, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–3300. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "National Flood Insurance Program: Insurance Coverage and Rates" received on October 28, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3301. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Disaster Assistance; Snow Assistance" received on October 21, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3302. A communication from the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Modernization of the Authorities of the Defense Production Act"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3303. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Treasury securities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3304. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3305. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Treasury auctions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3306. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Risk-Based Capital Requirements"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3307. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the strategic plan for fiscal years 1997 through 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3308. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Restrictions on Advances to Non-Qualified Thrift Lenders" (RIN3069–AA60) received on October 24, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3309. A communication from the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Flood Insurance Compliance"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3310. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997; ordered to lie on the table.

EC–3311. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–160 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3312. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–161 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3313. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–163 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3314. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–164 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3315. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–166 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3316. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–167 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3317. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–168 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3318. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–169 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3319. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of

D.C. Act 12-170 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3320. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-171 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3321. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-172 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3322. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-176 adopted by the Council on October 7, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3323. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-177 adopted by the Council on October 7, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3324. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-180 adopted by the Council on October 7, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3325. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Audit of the District of Columbia's Public Library's Procurement and Financial Management Practices and the Library's Relationship with the District of Columbia Public Library Foundation"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3326. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Audit of ANC 6C Covering the Period October 1, 1993 through December 31, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3327. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Bahamas; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3328. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Presidential Determination 97-36 on the Export-Import Loan to China for Shanghai Metro; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3329. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Deposits" (RIN 1550-AB00, 1557-AB14, 3064-AB57, 1550-AB11) received on October 17, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3330. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the availability of credit to small business; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3331. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Regulation D" received on October 31, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3332. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Rules Regarding Availability of Information" received on November 12, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3333. A communication from the Deputy Director, US&FCS/Russia-NIS Program Office, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Cooperative Agreement Program for an American Business Center in Russia" received on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3334. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Officer, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Removal of Restrictions on Importation of Defense Articles" (RIN1512-AB62) received on November 6, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3335. A communication from the Chairman of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3336. A communication from the Director of the International Labor Organization, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports entitled "Program and Budget for 1998-99 (Summary and Analysis)" and "The ILO and Global Change: 1990-97"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3337. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the American Institute in Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3338. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3339. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3340. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the United Nations agencies and affiliated agencies; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3341. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of thirty-one notices of proposed issuances of export licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3342. A communication from the Director of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Census Tract Program for Census 2000" received on October 21, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3343. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the list of General Accounting Office reports and testimony for September 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3344. A communication from the Director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Administration and Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "The Privacy Program" received on October 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3345. A communication from the Federal Acquisitions Regulation Secretariat, Office of Governmentwide Policy, U.S. General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule, a rule entitled "Alternative Dispute Resolution" (RIN9000-AH72) received on November 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3346. A communication from the Director of Commissioned Personnel, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Retirement System; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3347. A communication from the Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Fellowship and Similar Appointments in the Excepted Service" (RIN3206-AH91) received on October 28, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3348. A communication from the Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, a draft bill of proposed legislation entitled "Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Improvement Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3349. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3350. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase From People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to additions to the procurement list, received on November 12, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3351. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase From People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to additions to the procurement list, received on October 21, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3352. A communication from the Chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3353. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3354. A communication from the Office of the Independent Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on audit and investigative activities for the period ending September 30, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3355. A communication from the Office of the Independent Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on audit and investigative activities for the period ending September 30, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3356. A communication from the Independent Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls for the period March 1997 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3357. A communication from the Independent Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls for the period March 1997 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3358. A communication from the Office of Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3359. A communication from the Deputy Independent Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Inspector General Act on audit and investigative activities during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3360. A communication from the Executive Director of the Marine Mammal Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report of the Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3361. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Office of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3362. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3363. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Official, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Transfer of Electronic Records to the National Archives" (RIN3095–AA70), received on October 23, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3364. A communication from the Director of the National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3365. A communication from the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3366. A communication from the Chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3367. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3368. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3369. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3370. A communication from the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3371. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the strategic plan for fiscal years 1997 to 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3372. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3373. A communication from the Executive Director of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1996 and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3374. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act (PFCRA); to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3375. A communication from the Executive Director of the United States Arctic Research Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General and Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Acts for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3376. A communication from the Chair of the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3377. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3378. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3379. A communication from the Executive Director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General and Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Acts for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3380. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Managers' Financial Act (FMFIA) for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3381. A communication from the Acting Director of the Woodrow Wilson Center, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect and the report of the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3382. A communication from the General Sales Manager and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule governing the financing of commercial sales of agricultural commodities received on October 22, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3383. A communication from the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Amendment to the Production Flexibility Contract Regulations" (RIN0560–AF25) received on October 21, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3384. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan" received on October 24, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3385. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Commodity Supplemental Food Program-Caseload Assignment" (RIN0584–AC60) received on October 28, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3386. A communication from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the strategic plan for fiscal years 1997 through 2002; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3387. A communication from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules including a rule entitled "General Crop Insurance Regulations"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3388. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules including a rule entitled "Mediterranean Fruit Fly"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3389. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules including a rule entitled "Walnuts Grown in California"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3390. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Land and Minerals Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Patent Preparation and Issuance" (RIN1004–AC88) received on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3391. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Regulations for the Licensing of Hydroelectric Projects" received on October 30, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3392. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Metals Initiative for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3393. A communication from the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 1996"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3394. A communication from the Director of the Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Natural Gas Resource Management Program: Cumulative Effects 1992–94"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3395. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Indiana Regulatory Program"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3396. A communication from the Director of the Office of Rulemaking Coordination, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules including a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products" (RIN1904–AA38, AA52); to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3397. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of Revenue Procedures 97–49 through 97–53; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3398. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of Notices 97–56, 58–60, 63, 64, 66; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3399. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of Revenue Rulings 97–44, 47; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3400. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of Announcements 97–111, 114; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3401. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of three actions on decisions received on November 5, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3402. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Treasury regulation entitled "Tax Treatment of Cafeteria Plans" (RIN1545–AV43) received on November 6, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3403. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Officer of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Mendocino Ridge Viticultural Area (95R–017P)" (RIN1512–AA07) received on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3404. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Anticounterfeiting Consumer Protection Act" (RIN1515–AC10) received on November 12, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3405. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Savings Bond Simplification Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3406. A communication from the U.S. Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to modify the marking of certain silk products and containers; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3407. A communication from the Deputy Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Medicare Program" (RIN0938–AG03) received November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3408. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Medicare Program" (RIN0938–AI16) received on October 30, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3409. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Educational Revisions" (RIN2900–AI69) received on October 28, 1997; to the Committee On Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3410. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Education (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services), transmitting, a report relative to persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3411. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "To Assure the Free Appropriate Public Education of All Children With Disabilities"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3412. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Unemployment Insurance Program Letter Nos. 41–97 and 44–97"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3413. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans" (RIN1212–AA82) received on November 12, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3414. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules including a rule entitled "National Awards Program for Model Professional Development" (RIN1850–ZA02, AA52) received on November 12, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3415. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Longshore Act Civil Money Penalties Adjustment" (RIN1215–AB17); to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3416. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules including a rule entitled "Quality Mammography Standards" (RIN0910–AA24, AA93, AA59); to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3417. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on family planning for fiscal years 1994 and 1995; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3418. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Metropolitan Area Treatment Enhancement System for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3419. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled Mammography Quality Standards (RIN0910–AA24) received on November 13, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC–3420. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Deceptive Use of Leakproof" received on November 17, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3421. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on ombudsman activities with the New Independent States for the period July 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3422. A communication from the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal, State, and Local Transportation Financial Statistics: Fiscal Years 1982–94"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3423. A communication from the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on civil aviation security for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3424. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the administration of the Marine Mammal Protection Act" for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3425. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the budget; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3426. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3427. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3428. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3429. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3430. A communication from the Principal Deputy (Acquisition and Technology), Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the selected acquisition reports for the period July 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3431. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Nonproliferation and

Disarmament Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3432. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, sixteen rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3433. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, 191 rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3434. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit of the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Revenue Ruling 97–45 received on November 17, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3435. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit of the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Revenue Ruling 97–46 received on November 17, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3436. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit of the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Revenue Notice 97–67 received on November 17, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3437. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit of the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Revenue Notice 97–68 received on November 17, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3438. A communication from the Chief Counsel of the Bureau of the Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on November 17, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3439. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice of determination and certification relative to antiterrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3440. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3441. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting, a draft to proposed legislation to provide authorization of appropriations for the United States International Trade Commission for fiscal year 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3442. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the transmittal of the certification of proposed issuance of an export license; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3443. A communication from the Independent Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls for the period October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3444. A communication from the Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3445. A communication from the Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Reduction in Force Performance Management" (RIN3206–AH32) received on November 17, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3446. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to the law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3447. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Statistical Programs of the U.S. Government: Fiscal Year 1998"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3448. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administration, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Implementation of the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996; Possession of List I Chemicals, Definitions, Record Retention, and Temporary Exemption From Chemical Registration for Distributors of Combination Ephredrine Products" (RIN1117–AA42) received on November 17, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3449. A communication from the President of the National Safety Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the combined financial statements for the fiscal years ended on June 30, 1997 and 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3450. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to the law, a report relative to mixed waste; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3451. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a prospectus; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3452. A communication from the Director of the Office of Rulemaking Coordination, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products" (RIN1904–AA93) received on October 21, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3453. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Illinois Regulatory Program" received on October 21, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3454. A communication from the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the biennial report on the Flood Insurance Compliance Program for calendar years 1996 and 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3455. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including one rule entitled "Snow Load Map for Manufactured Homes" received on November 17, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3456. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Import/Export User Fees" received on November 17, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3457. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule relative to importation of pork products received on November 17, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3458. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule relative to quarantine regulations received on November 14, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3459. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report concerning institutions of higher education that have been deemed ineligible for certain federal funding; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3460. A communication from the Director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Administration and Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "DoD Freedom of Information Act Program" received on November 17, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3461. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice to award a contract with options covering a nine year period; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3462. A communication from the Chief, Programs and Legislative Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a cost comparison study relative to Elmendorf Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3463. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3464. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the list of General Accounting Office reports and testimony for October 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3465. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3466. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to accounts containing unvouchered expenditures; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3467. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3468. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, fifteen rules including a rule entitled "Travel Reimbursement"

(RIN9000–AH77, AH75, AG87, AH24, AH80, AH79, AH50, AH37, AH76, AH81, AH18, AH78, AH74) received on December 2, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3469. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3470. A communication from the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3471. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual reort under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3472. A communication from the Director of the United States Information Agency, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3473. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the management report on management decisions and final actions of the Office of the Inspector General audit recommendations for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3474. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3475. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3476. A communication from the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3477. A communication from the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3478. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3479. A communication from the Executive Officer of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar years 1995 and 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3480. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3481. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3482. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3483. A communication from the Office of the Public Printer, U.S. Government Printing Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3484. A communication from the Chairman of the International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3485. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Official, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Prices and Availability of Federal Register, Acceptance of Digital Signitures" received on December 2, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3486. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3487. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Student Educational Program" (RIN3206–AH82) received on December 3, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3488. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3489. A communication from the Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, a draft bill of proposed legislation to provide for the correction of retirement coverage errors; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3490. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to cost-of-living allowance (RIN3206–AH51) received on December 3, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3491. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report for the period ending September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3492. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3493. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, a draft bill of proposed legislation to make permanent the exemption of certain trust funds; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3494. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3495. A communication from the Commissioner of the Office of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the accountability report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3496. A communication from the President of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence In Education Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3497. A communication from the Executive Secretary of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence In Education Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3498. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation For Public Broadcasting, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3499. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3500. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment For the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3501. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment For the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3502. A communication from the Chairman of the National Science Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3503. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997 and the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3504. A communication from the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997 and the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3505. A communication from the Executive Director of the State Justice Institute, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal

year 1997 and the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3506. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Evaluation of the Accounts and Operation of the Office of Tourism and Promotions for Fiscal Years 1996 and 1997; the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3507. A communication from the Chief of the Regulation Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Treasury regulations received on January 27, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3508. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the OMB Final Sequestration Report for fiscal year 1998; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to the Committee on Armed Services, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, to the Committee on Finance, to the Committee on Foreign Relations, to the Committee on Governmental Affairs, to the Committee on the Judiciary, to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, the Committee on Small Business, to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC–3509. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting" (RIN1018–AB80) received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3510. A communication from the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to highway construction; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3511. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a prospectus; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3512. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the nondisclosure of safeguards information for the period July 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3513. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules including a rule entitled "Perimeter Intrusion Alarm Systems"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3514. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on October 17, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3515. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on October 30, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3516. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on October 30, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3517. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3518. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 9, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3519. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to an emergency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3520. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to navigation improvements at Miami Harbor, Florida; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3521. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a hurricane and storm damage reduction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3522. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a flood damage reduction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3523. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a storm damage reduction and shoreline protection project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3524. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach Harbor, Florida; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3525. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a deep-draft navigation project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3526. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on October 22, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3527. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on October 17, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3528. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on October 17, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3529. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, five rules received on October 21, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3530. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3531. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules received on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3532. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, seven rules received on November 6, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3533. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on November 7, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3534. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules received on November 12, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3535. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on November 13, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3536. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on November 19, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3537. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, thirteen rules received on November 21, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3538. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3539. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, eight rules received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3540. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules received on December 2, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3541. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to

law, eight rules received on December 4, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3542. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules received on December 5, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3543. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules received on December 5, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3544. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 10, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3545. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules received on December 10, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3546. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the budget request for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3547. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment dated November 21, 1997; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-3548. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on appropriations legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-3549. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment dated December 1, 1997; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-3550. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment dated December 4, 1997; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-3551. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment dated November 21, 1997; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-3552. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, seven rules including a rule entitled "Loan Guaranty: Electronic Payment of Funding Fee"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3553. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3554. A communication from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on December 9, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3555. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of calendar year 1996 Forensic DNA Laboratory Improvement Program grant awards; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3556. A communication from the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on accomplishments for fiscal years 1995 and 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3557. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Loan Policies and Operations" (RIN3052-AB78) received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3558. A communication from the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "1997-Crop Peanuts" (RIN0560-AF01) received on November 19, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3559. A communication from the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Pea Crop Insurance Regulations" received on December 2, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3560. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Winter Pears Grown in Oregon, Washington, and California" received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3561. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California" received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3562. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine rules; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3563. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, the notice of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3564. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to the report on Reserve retirement initiatives; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3565. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of determinations relative to institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3566. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement (Acquisition and Technology), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3567. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the initiation of a cost comparison; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3568. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on payment of restructuring costs under defense contracts for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3569. A communication from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Program Integration, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Military Retirement System for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3570. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Rewarding, Organizing, and Managing People for the 21st Century, Time for a Strategic Approach"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3571. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Assessment of Fees" (RIN1557-AB41) received on December 3, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3572. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Russia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3573. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on November 19, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3574. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN1550-AB01) received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3575. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Liquidity" (RIN1550-AA77) received on November 18, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3576. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the national emergency with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3577. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the national emergency with respect to Serbia and Montenegro; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3578. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the national emergency with respect to Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3579. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs.

EC-3580. A communication from the Deputy Congressional Liaison, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules; to the

Committee on Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs.

EC–3581. A communication from the Legal Counsel of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3582. A communication from the Secretary of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3583. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Worker Adjustment Assistant Training Funds; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3584. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Welfare-to-Work Grants" (RIN1205–AB15) received on November 21, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3585. A communication from the Chief of Staff of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Definition of United States Resident" (RIN0960–AE05) received November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3586. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to telemedicine services; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3587. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning emigration laws; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3588. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3589. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Notices 97–62, 65, 69, 73; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3590. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Revenue Rulings 97–48, 49, 51, 53; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3591. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Announcements 97–120, 122; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3592. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two Treasury regulations; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3593. A communication from the Assistant Commissioner (Examination), Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 5, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3594. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice of the proposed issuance of an export license; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3595. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice of a military justification; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3596. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3597. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Agency For International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Denton Program for the period July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3598. A communication from the Executive Director of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3599. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3600. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the prevention of nuclear proliferation for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3601. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act for the period July 1 through December 31, 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3602. A communication from the Chief of the Regulation Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Treasury regulations received on January 27, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3603. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Minerals Management Service" (RIN1010–AC06, 1004–AC91); to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3604. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Safety Belt Use Within the NPS System" (RIN1024–AC63) received on December 8, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3605. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3606. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Implementation of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996" (RIN1029–AB90) received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3607. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the status of Exxon and stripper well oil overcharge funds for the period January 1 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3608. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on low-level radioactive waste management program for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3609. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Clean Coal Technology Demonstration Program for the period January 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3610. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on December 2, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3611. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Adjusted 1988 Newlands Project Operating Criteria and Procedures" (RIN1006–AA37) received on December 11, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3612. A communication from the Co-Chairs of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the final report of the Commission; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–3613. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period January through September 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3614. A communication from the Navy Wives Clubs of America National Treasurer, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the audit of the NWCA for the period September 1, 1996 through August 31, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3615. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment dated December 4, 1997; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3616. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment dated December 10, 1997; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3617. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of two rules; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3618. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Loan Policies and Operations" (RIN3052–AB81) received on December 15, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3619. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer of the Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Application Processing" (RIN1550–AA83) received on December 18, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3620. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on a national emergency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3621. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the executive

order prohibiting certain transactions with respect to UNITA; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3622. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a statement of justification; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3623. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3624. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Rewards Program Participants; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3625. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Indonesia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3626. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority to Approve Federal Home Loan Bank Bylaws" (RIN3069-AA70) received on December 29, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3627. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 93-33; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3628. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3629. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning direct spending or receipts legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-3630. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Active Military Service Certified Under Section 401 of Public Law 95-202 (RIN2900-AI91) received on January 5, 1998; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3631. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the strategic plan for fiscal years 1998 through 2003; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3632. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the National Institute of Justice for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3633. A communication from the Chairperson of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled, "Racial and Ethnic Tension in American Communities: Poverty, Inequality, and Discrimination"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3634. A communication from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3635. A communication from the Clerk of the United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitting, pursuant to law, the court's report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on the Judicary.

EC-3636. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3637. A communication from the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the High Plains States Groundwater Demonstration Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3638. A communication from the Director of the Office of Rulemaking Coordination, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 17, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3639. A communication from the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Energy Outlook 1998"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3640. A communication from the Freedom of Information Act Administrator, Office of the General Counsel, Legal Services Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3641. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3642. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Minimum Income Annuity" (RIN2900-AI83) received January 8, 1998; to the Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3643. A communication from the Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules including a rule entitled "Sweet Corn Insurance Regulations" received on January 5, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3644. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of four rules; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3645. 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 "Karnal Bunt" (RIN0579-AA83) received on January 8, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3646. A communication from the Administrator of the Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Rural Rental Housing Assistance" (RIN0575-AC15) received on December 29, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3647. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Royalty Relief for New Leases in Deep Water" (RIN1010-AC14) received on January 9, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3648. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 9, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3649. A communication from the Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Mississippi Regulatory Program" received on January 7, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3650. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Endangered Status for Brother's Inland Tuatara" (RIN1018-AD06) received on January 5, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3651. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants" (RIN1018-AD07) received on January 9, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3652. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Surface Transportation Research and Development Plan; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3653. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility Accident Analysis Handbook" received on January 8, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3654. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a deep-draft navigation project in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3655. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an environmental restoration project for the Lower Savannah River, Georgia and South Carolina; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3656. A communication from the Acting Assistant of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a flood damage reduction project for the Blue River Basin at the Dodson Industrial District, Kansas City, Missouri; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3657. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the status of the Hazardous Air Pollutant Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3658. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation Program"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3659. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report on the mercury study; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3660. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, five rules received on December 12, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3661. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, nineteen rules received on December 12, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3662. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on December 17, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3663. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on December 18, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3664. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules received on December 18, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3665. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, seven rules received on December 22, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3666. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules received on December 29, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3667. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on January 5, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3668. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 7, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3669. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules received on January 7, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3670. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, fifteen rules received on January 7, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3671. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules received on January 7, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3672. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules received on January 8, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3673. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3674. A communication from the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Amendments to the Bank Secrecy Act Regulations Regarding Reporting and Recordkeeping by Card Clubs" (RIN1506–AA18) received on January 7, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3675. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on January 7, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3676. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to the continuation of the Libyan Emergency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3677. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Risk-Based Capital Standards" received on December 22, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3678. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the U.S. government for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3679. A communication from the Director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Administration and Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 29, 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3680. A communication from the Acting Director of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to a cost comparison study of the DOD Civilian Payroll functions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3681. A communication from the Acting Director of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to a cost comparison study of the DOD Retired and Annuitant Payroll functions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3682. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a determination to combine multiple depot-level maintenance and repair workloads; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3683. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3684. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Acquisition Workforce Reductions"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3685. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Naval Petroleum Reserve Numbered 1, Elk Hills, California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3686. A communication from the Director of the Washington Headquarters Services, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 29, 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3687. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Presidential Determination relative to Albania, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3688. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistant, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3689. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the trade and employment effects of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3690. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the trade and employment effects of the Andean Trade Preference Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3691. A communication from the National Director, Tax Forms and Publications Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 12, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3692. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 8, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3693. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Monitoring the Impact of Medicare Physician Payment Reform on Utilization and Access"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3694. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 8, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3695. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3696. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of Notices 97–74, 77, 98–1 through 98–7; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3697. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of thirteen Treasury regulations; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3698. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of three actions on decisions received on January 6, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3699. 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 "Empowerment Zone Employment Credit" received on December 30, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3700. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules received on January 6, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3701. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of Revenue Rulings 97:55–57, 98:1, 98:4; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3702. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of Revenue Procedures 97:55, 57, 98:1–10, 98:13; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3703. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 3, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3704. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the budget; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3705. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the study of the contribution of bycatch to charitable organizations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3706. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3707. A communication from the Director of the Program Office of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Advanced Technology Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3708. A communication from the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Economics and Statistics Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules concerning surveys of international transactions in services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3709. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Task Force On Assistance To Families of Aviation Disasters"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3710. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "High-Speed Ground Transportation For America"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3711. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice on the enforcement policy statement on U.S. origin claims; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3712. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the applicance labeling rule received on January 5, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3713. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on individual reference services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3714. A communication from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, eleven rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3715. A communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 5, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3716. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on November 21, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3717. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of six rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3718. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of fifteen rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3719. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of four rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3720. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of nine rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3721. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of 191 rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3722. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–190 adopted by the Council on September 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3723. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–191 adopted by the Council on October 7, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3724. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–198 adopted by the Council on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3725. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–199 adopted by the Council on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3726. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–200 adopted by the Council on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3727. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–204 adopted by the Council on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3728. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–205 adopted by the Council on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3729. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–209 adopted by the Council on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3730. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–210 adopted by the Council on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3731. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–211 adopted by the Council on November 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3732. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3733. A communication from the Chairman and General Counsel of the U.S. National Labor Relations Board, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3734. A communication from the Chairman of the Postal Rate Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3735. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3736. A communication from the Chairperson of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3737. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3738. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3739. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3740. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3741. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3742. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3743. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3744. A communication from the Senior Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment For the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3745. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3746. A communication from the Chair of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3747. A communication from the Director of the Policy and Communications Staff, National Archives at College Park, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3748. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3749. A communication from the Chairman of the National Mediation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3750. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3751. A communication from the Administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3752. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3753. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3754. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Information Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3755. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3756. A communication from the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3757. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3758. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3759. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3760. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3761. A communication from the Inspector General of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3762. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation For National Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3763. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3764. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3765. A communication from the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3766. A communication from the Federal Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3767. A communication from the Inspector General of the U.S. General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3768. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Office of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3769. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3770. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3771. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3772. A communication from the President of the U.S. Institute of Peace, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual reports on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997 and under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3773. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual reports on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997 and under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3774. A communication from the Director of the Morris K. Udall Foundation Scholarship and Excellence In National Environmental Policy Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual reports on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997 and under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3775. A communication from the Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual reports on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997 and under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3776. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3777. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3778. A communication from the Director of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Block Group Program for Census 2000" received on January 5, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3779. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, the President's Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to locality-based comparability payments; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3780. A communication from the Director of the Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, an aggregate report on personnel for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3781. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of additions to the Procurement List; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3782. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the list of reports, testimony, correspondence, and other publications for November 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3783. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3784. A communication from the General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3785. A communication from the Chairman of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of management reform plans; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3786. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of seven rules; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3787. A communication from the Director of the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on the United States Territories and Commonwealths and on the State of Hawaii"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3788. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3789. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule relative to business persons received on January 12, 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3790. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3791. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3792. A communication from the Chairperson of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Equal Educational Opportunity and Nondiscrimination for Students with Limited English Proficiency"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3793. A communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the Postal Rate Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3794. A communication from the Director of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Establishing New Research Data Centers (RDC)" received on January 15, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3795. A communication from the Director of Selective Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3796. A communication from the Secretary of the Postal Rate Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3797. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Negotiated Rulemaking Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3798. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3799. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule relative to agency relationships (RIN3206–AH72) received on January 15, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3800. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3801. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3802. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3803. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3804. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Federal Employees Clean Air Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3805. A communication from the Independent Counsel, Office of the Independent Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for the period ending September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3806. A communication from the Deputy Financial Officer of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3807. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of additions to the Procurement List; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3808. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3809. A communication from the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3810. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3811. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3812. A communication from the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3813. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3814. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3815. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of approval for a personnel management demonstration project for the Department of the Navy; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3816. A communication from the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "District of Columbia Public Schools Performance Audit: Fiscal Year 1997 Capital Improvement Program Procurement Process"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3817. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–224 adopted by the Council on December 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3818. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–223 adopted by the Council on December 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3819. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–219 adopted by the Council on December 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3820. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12–194 adopted by the Council on December 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3821. A communication from the Public Printer, U.S. Government Printing Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the status of GPO access; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–3822. A communication from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on unauthorized appropriations and expiring authorizations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3823. A communication from the Acting Director of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Protection for Products of Indian Art and Craftsmanship" (RIN1090–AA45) received on January 15, 1998; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–3824. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on contract support cost funding in Indian self-determination contracts and compacts; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–3825. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report that a reward had been paid pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2708; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3826. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on negative security assurances; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3827. A communication from the Director of the Office of Rulemaking Coordination, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Records Maintained on Individuals (Privacy Act)" (RIN1901–AA62) received on January 21, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3828. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Federal Timber Contract Payment Modification" (RIN1004–AC69) received on January 12, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3829. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Land and Minerals Management), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Multiple Use, Mining" (RIN1004–AD05) received on December 10, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3830. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Niobrara National Scenic River; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3831. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report from foreign entities for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3832. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Future Years Defense Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3833. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a cost comparison of libraries at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3834. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the strategic overview of the Navy's commercial activity studies; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3835. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3836. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the National Defense Stockpile; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3837. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3838. A communication from the Director of the National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the internal controls and financial systems in effect during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3839. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–3840. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on outreach to gulf war veterans; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

EC–3841. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on appropriations legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3842. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on appropriations legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC–3843. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Presidential Determination relative to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3844. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a determination relative to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3845. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3846. A communication from the Chief Counsel of the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to U.S. nationals and the government of North Korea, received on December 4, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3847. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding international traffic in arms regulations, received on December 8, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3848. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding issuance of immigrant visas, received on January 5, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3849. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Grape Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Temporary Suspension of Continuing Assessment Rate" received on January 9, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3850. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to tart cherries, received on January 9, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3851. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and tangelos grown in Florida received on January 9, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3852. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to onions grown in South Texas received on January 9, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3853. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to grapes grown in a designated area of southeastern California received on January 9, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3854. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to tomatoes grown in Florida and imported tomatoes received on January 9, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3855. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to the importation of ruminants, meat, and meat products received on January 9, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3856. A communication from the Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to hybrid seed corn received on January 9, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3857. A communication from the Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to the availability of information to the public received on January 9, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3858. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a certification regarding the incidental capture of sea turtles; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3859. A communication from the Director for Executive Budgeting and Assistance Management, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Financial Assistance for Internship Program for Postsecondary Students" received on December 11, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3860. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide of the smoke of 1249 varieties of domestic cigarettes for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3861. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 8, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3862. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 15, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3863. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 15, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3864. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3865. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on January 12, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3866. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules received on January 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3867. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, fifteen rules received on Transportation.

EC-3868. A communication from the AMD (Performance Evaluation and Records Management), Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3869. A communication from the Secretary of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of two rules; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3870. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of two rules; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3871. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice of the continuation of the emergency regarding terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3872. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the national emergency with respect to Libya; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3873. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on a transaction involving U.S. exports to the People's Republic of China (China); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3874. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Membership Eligibility" (RIN3069-AA66) received on January 21, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3875. A communication from the Acting Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 21, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3876. A communication from the Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3877. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Securities Credit Transactions" received on January 9, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3878. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3879. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning emigration laws and policies of Mongolia; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3880. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, initiative for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3881. A communication from the Assistant Commissioner (Examination), Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on January 12, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3882. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services (Administration For Children and Families), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on December 10, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3883. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on data processing; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3884. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3885. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Procedures 98: 11, 12, 14-16; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3886. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of three regulations; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3887. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Rulings 98: 3, 6-8; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3888. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3889. A communication from the Administration of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "The Incidence and Severity of Sediment Contamination in Surface Waters of the United States"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3890. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including one entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans" received on January 13, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3891. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Consolidation of Certain Food and Feed Additive Tolerance Regulations" received on January 13, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3892. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, Incorporated by Approved State Hazardous Waste Program for Florida" received on January 15, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3893. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri" received on January 15, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3894. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including one entitled "Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program" received on January 16, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3895. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, one rule entitled "Significant Uses of Certain Chemical Substances" received on January 20, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3896. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on the Environment and Public Works.

EC-3897. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Blair County, Pennsylvania, demonstration project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3898. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding Freedom of Information Act Amendments (RIN3150-AF78) received on January 7, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3899. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to deliberate misconduct by unlicensed persons (RIN3150-AF35) received on January 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3900. A communication from the Executive Secretary of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3901. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3902. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the American Red Cross; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3903. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the annual report for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3904. A communication from the President of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3905. A communication from the Chairman of the Commission On Dietary Supplement Labels, transmitting, pursuant to law, the final report of the Commission; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3906. A communication from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Federal Sector Report on EEO Complaints and Appeals" for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3907. A communication from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the employment of minorities, women and people with disabilities in the Federal government; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3908. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the final performance report regarding the Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3909. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Council on Alzheimer's Disease for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3910. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Safety of Imported Food Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the results of the evaluations of the 100-Hour Rule Waivers in California, Utah and Wisconsin; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3911. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the results of the evaulations of the 100-Hour Rule Waivers in California, Utah, and Wisconsin; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3912. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the implementation of the Age Discrimination Act for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3913. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the National Health Service Corps for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3914. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on assistance to persons with developmental disabilities for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3915. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Pension and Welfare Benefits, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of two rules; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3916. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Respiratory Protection" (RIN1218-AA05) received on January 5, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3917. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy in Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health & Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, seventeen rules including one rule with respect to carcinogenicity testing of compounds used in food-producing animals; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3918. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report concerning surplus Federal real property; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3919. A communication from the Chairman of the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an interim report relative to modifications to the program; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3920. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations in the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding 21st Century Learning Centers Program (RIN1850-ZA01) received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3921. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations in the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding Federal Work-Study Programs (RIN1840-AC50) received on November 25, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3922. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations in the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding protection of human Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3923. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations in the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding relief from regulatory provisions for student assistance received on January 15, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3924. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations in the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule regarding the Federal Family Education Loan and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Programs (RIN1840-AC45) received on December 15, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3925. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations in the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Student Assistance General Provisions: Standards of Financial Responsibility" (RIN1840-AC36) received on November 21, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3926. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of two rules; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3927. A communication from the Assistant of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of two rules; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3928. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of three rules; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-3929. A communication from the Assistant of Labor for Employment and Training, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on December 3, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-299. A resolution adopted by the Michigan Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils relative to

the Natural Resources Conservation Service; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-300. A resolution adopted by the North Alabama Mayor's Association relative to Redstone Arsenal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-301. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Monterey Park, California relative to the Federal Aviation Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-302. A resolution adopted by the Jerry Voorhis Claremont Democratic Club, Claremont, California, relative to the tobacco industry; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-303. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Lakewood, California relative to the Los Angeles River; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-304. A resolution adopted by the East Tennessee Development District relative to American Heritage Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-305. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee relative to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-306. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) relative to the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-307. A resolution adopted by the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission relative to global warming; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-308. A resolution adopted by Pilipino-American Political Aggregation, Inc. relative to the proposed "Filipino Veterans Equity Act"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

POM-309. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Dixon, California relative to a veterans' hospital; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

POM-310. A joint resolution adopted by the Assembly of the State of California; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

Whereas, Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death and injury to children; and

Whereas, A properly installed child passenger restraint system can reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury to a child in a crash by 71 percent and reduce the need for hospitalization by 67 percent, and child restraint systems are 50 percent effective in preventing minor injury; and

Whereas, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that if all child safety seats were correctly installed in vehicles, 5,300 injuries would be prevented and the lives of 500 young children would be saved each year; and

Whereas, NHTSA estimates that child restraint systems saved the lives of 2,934 children under the age of five years in the United States from 1982 through 1995; and

Whereas, NHTSA estimates that 600 children under five years of age were killed and approximately 70,000 were injured due to improper, or lack of, use of child car safety seats in the United States in 1996; and

Whereas, In 1996, the Department of the California Highway Patrol issued 15,516 citations for noncompliance with child restraint system laws; and

Whereas, As many as 80 percent of all child safety seats are used incorrectly in the United States, and safety seat checkups conducted in California have shown that as many as 92 percent of child safety seats in the state are misused; and

Whereas, The Department of the California Highway Patrol reports that 30 of the 48 children under four years of age who died as passengers in 1993 were in a car seat, but only eight of those car seats were properly installed; and

Whereas, Of the children who died in California car accidents in 1995, 85 percent would have survived had they been sitting in correctly installed child restraint systems; and

Whereas, The impact received by a child in an improperly installed child restraint system at 30 miles per hour is the same as being thrown out of a third-story window; and

Whereas, For a child traveling in a vehicle, the most dangerous place to be is in an adult's arms, otherwise known as the "child crusher position"; and

Whereas, In a crash at approximately 30 miles per hour, a 10-pound infant will be ripped from a belted adult's arms with a force of almost 200 pounds; and

Whereas, A mother weighing 100 pounds, sharing an adult seat belt with her child, in a car traveling 25 miles per hour, on impact will throw 2,500 pounds of pressure against the child; and

Whereas, According to NHTSA, 479 children could have been saved nationwide in 1995 if they had been properly restrained in their child care safety seat; and

Whereas, For consumers the most likely point of contact for information regarding child restraint systems for new vehicles is the automobile dealer, and yet sales, service, and parts personnel are generally unaware of child restaint system installation problems and techniques, and supplemental tools needed for installation; and

Whereas, The only other existing sources of information and assistance about child restraint systems for consumers are printed manuals, instructions, and labels provided by child restraint system and automobile manufacturers; and

Whereas, While some of this information is mandated by regulation, it is often provided at the discretion of the manufacturer, and does not necessarily accurately display or describe proper installation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature encourages the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to continue developing and assembling data on CD ROM to demonstrate which child restraint systems are compatible with which vehicles; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature supports the recommendations of President Clinton that, under the National Transportation Department Plan, every child car safety seat have two standard buckles at its base, that every automobile manufacturer install standard latches in the back seat that are designed specifically to fasten these buckles, that universal attachments be developed to secure the top of the child care safety seat to the automobile's interior, and that the new safety system, referred to as the Uniform Child Restraint Anchorages (UCRA), be available for purchase by 1999; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature commends the General Motors Corporation for committing $10.6 million for a five-year partnership with the National SAFE KIDS Campaign to promote correct installation and use of child restraint systems; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature commends the automobile manufacturers that are currently developing and disseminating safety information, and encourages all automobile manufacturers to develop educational materials on the correct placement and installation of child restraint systems in their vehicles for use by automobile dealer sales, service, and parts personnel, child restraint system trainers, and child restraint system manufacturers; and be it further

Resolved, That warnings of incompatibility between vehicle seating positions and child restraint systems should be prominent in automobile and child restraint system owner's manuals, as well as in vehicles; and be it further

Resolved, That child restraint system manufacturers should develop comprehensive, consistent language on and illustration of, correct installation of child restraint systems in their instruction manuals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages the manufacturers of child restraint systems to identify which automobile makes and models their products are compatible with, and enclose this information in the initial child restraint system packaging; and be it further

Resolved, That an intensive child restraint system educational campaign on the correct use and installation of child restraint systems should be undertaken by federal and state governments and automobile and child restraint system manufacturers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to work together to promote and support practical methods of encouraging automobile manufacturers to address the problems discussed in this resolution as well as the safety risks that arise because of the problems; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the President and Congress of the United States to encourage automobile manufacturers, that are not presently informing their customers about the need to correctly install child restraint systems, to take steps to educate consumers with regard to the correct installation procedures for child restraint systems; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and to the Chief Executive Officers of the General Motors Corporation.

POM-311. A joint resolution adopted by the Assembly of the State of California; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

Whereas, the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991 represented a watershed event in the evolution of federal transportation policy; and

Whereas, the reauthorization of ISTEA is expected to be adopted by the United States Senate and House of Representatives later this year; and

Whereas, all members of California's Congressional delegation have created a caucus which has advocated on behalf of California and its interests during the ISTEA reauthorization process; and

Whereas, several proposals are currently being considered by the United States Senate and House of Representatives; and

Whereas, in considering these proposals for reauthorizing ISTEA, the federal government is evaluating numerous factors for calculating the distribution of federal Highway Trust Fund moneys; and

Whereas, each of these proposals contain some provisions that will be fiscally beneficial to California, and some provisions that will be fiscally detrimental to California; and

Whereas, current federal program categories limit the flexibility of the states with regard to the manner in which the states may spend their funding; and

Whereas, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program has proven to be effective at improving air quality in California given the state's substantial air quality improvement needs despite the current funding limitation on the program for large states; and

Whereas, California has traditionally been a "donor" state, having received on average over the six-year authorization of ISTEA just 91 percent of the amount California provided in gas tax revenues to the Highway Account of the federal Highway Trust Fund over that period; and

Whereas, recent projections estimate that, within the next two years, international trade will account for 25 percent of California's economy, and intermodal goods movement as a result of international trade places a significant burden on the state's transportation infrastructure; and

Whereas, it is imperative that the federal government place a high priority on providing transportation funding for the heavy infrastructure needed to advance the nation's competitiveness in accommodating the growing international trade shipped through the nation's ports, airports, and border crossings; and

Whereas, California has been compelled to divert hundreds of millions of dollars from county, street, and road allocations to pay for border infrastructure improvements needed as a result of increased commercial and industrial traffic caused by the North American Free Trade Agreement; and

Whereas, local and regional transit systems are indispensable to the daily transportation needs of millions of Californians; and

Whereas, California has recently enacted welfare reform legislation that is expected to result in a significant increase in transportation and transit needs of new workers leaving welfare; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to reauthorize ISTEA in a manner that ensures more flexibility for states in spending Highway Trust Fund moneys, increases the amount of funding designated for the CMAQ program and removes the current limitations on CMAQ allocations to larger states, guarantees that each state receives at least 95 percent of its contribution to the Highway Account of the federal Highway Trust Fund each year, provides adequate funding to reflect the level of intermodal activity in each state, and allocates funding to offset the cost of local improvements to California's border infrastructure needed as a result of the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, ensures consistent funding support for transit, and reflects support at the highest funding level possible for discretionary welfare-to-work transportation access programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to each member of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, each member of the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-312. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates have forced Pennsylvania and the Northeast states to make significant reductions in ground-level ozone pollution by requiring the reduction of ozone-causing emissions from factories and power plants and vehicles that go beyond those adopted in other states; and

Whereas, The EPA reduced the standard for ground-level ozone pollution from 120 parts per billion to 80 parts per billion on July 18, 1997; and

Whereas, The EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee concluded in reviewing the standard that there is no "bright line" below which the public health impacts of ozone pollution are significantly worse than above a certain level; and

Whereas, The studies the EPA conducted of the potential health impacts from ozone pollution were inaccurate and overstated the potential health benefits from a revised ozone standard; and

Whereas, The EPA failed to comply with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act that requires agencies to determine the impact of regulations on small businesses; and

Whereas, The EPA set the new ground-level ozone standard without proposing how the standard was to be implemented by states, what obligations stationary or mobile sources will have or what the deadline is for compliance; and

Whereas, Air monitoring data from the summer of 1997 show that air coming into Pennsylvania from states to the west and south already violates the new ground-level ozone standard adopted by the EPA; and

Whereas, The Ozone Transport Assessment Group recommended on June 12, 1997, that the EPA adopt a uniform, region-wide standard for reducing ozone-causing emissions in a 37-state area; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania-based utilities and businesses are already at a competitive disadvantage and Pennsylvania's motorists are impacted more harshly because the Commonwealth is required to reduce ozone pollution to more stringent levels than states to the west and south to meet the existing ozone standard; and

Whereas, The EPA has provided no assurances that other states will be required to take steps to control ozone-causing pollutants that contribute to present ozone violations in Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, The EPA set a standard for particulate without conducting the necessary background studies to document how widespread and significant the particulate problem may be, therefore be it

Resolved (the House of Representatives concurring), That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the United States and the EPA to halt the imposition of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone and particulate and reconsider its decision to impose even more stringent standards upon this Commonwealth until the required studies and impact analyses are completed; and be it further

Resolved, That the EPA not require Pennsylvania and other Northeast states to adopt new or expanded control measures until states contributing to ozone violations in this Commonwealth are required to control pollution to at least the same levels as Pennsylvania; and be it further

Resolved, That the EPA grant the petitions filed by the Commonwealth and other Northeast states under Section 126 of the Clean Air Act seeking uniform reductions in ozone-causing air pollution in states which contribute to ozone violations in Pennsylvania; and be it further

Resolved, That the EPA be prohibited from reclassifying any region of this Commonwealth to a more stringent ozone pollution designation where ozone pollution violations are primarily caused by pollution coming from other states; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation and the Administrator of the EPA.

POM-313. A joint resolution adopted by the Assembly of the State of California; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, A recent study by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) found that Mexican trucks entering the United States often fail to meet basic federal safety standards; and

Whereas, Investigators from the GAO found that Mexican trucks entering the United States may have serious safety violations, including broken suspension systems, substandard tires, inoperable brakes, overweight loads, and unsecured and hazardous cargo; and

Whereas, Mexico has no nationwide automated systems for monitoring the safety history or violation records of Mexican companies and drivers, and it is therefore difficult for California law enforcement personnel to obtain essential safety data; and

Whereas, If trucks from Mexico are allowed unrestricted access to the state, verification of foreign insurance policies and access to the foreign judicial system will be very difficult when accidents occur, possibly resulting in the delay of settlements and payments to those involved; and

Whereas, Large quantities of illegal drugs are smuggled into California from foreign nations, including Mexico; and

Whereas, The federal government has chosen not to implement provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement that called for unlimited access by Mexican trucks to the territory of the State of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to maintain the existing restrictions on trucks from Mexico and other foreign nations entering California and continue efforts to assure full compliance by the owners and drivers of those trucks with all highway safety, environmental, and drug enforcement laws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House

of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-314. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whereas, Richard Humphreys was born on February 13, 1750, in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, and arrived in Philadelphia as a teen to receive apprenticeship training in goldsmithing and silversmithing; and

Whereas, Richard Humphreys was a dedicated member of the Society of Friends, an active citizen in community affairs, a philanthropist who valiantly served as a Captain in the Colonial Army during the Revolutionary War; and

Whereas, Upon his death in 1832, Richard Humphreys' convictions led him to donate a portion of his wealth for the purpose of educating former slaves; and

Whereas, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, the first institution in America devoted to the vocational education of descendants of the African race, was founded in 1837; and

Whereas, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania has continued its proud heritage and celebrates 160 years of service to the academic community in 1997; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memoralize the Citizens' Committee of the United States Postal Service to consider and recommend to the United States Postal Service Board of Governors the issuance of a commemorative stamp honoring Richard Humphreys, Quaker, goldsmith and philanthropist, on the 160th Anniversary of the founding of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service and the Postmaster General.

POM-315. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Texas; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 55

Whereas, Americans recognize and appreciate the enormous sacrifices made by United States military personnel who served courageously in the Vietnam War and the conflict in Southeast Asia, some of whom are still classified as missing in action; and

Whereas, While the status of most of the American soldiers who lost their lives or were injured during this long military engagement is certain, the fate of more than 2,000 military personnel remains unknown decades after the United States' final withdrawal from Vietnam; and

Whereas, The unresolved status of those brave individuals is, understandably, a source of great concern for their families, their friends, and their fellow citizens and represents a chapter in our nation's history that cannot be satisfactorily concluded until their whereabouts are known; and

Whereas, Recognizing the importance of this vital obligation to American military personnel and their families, the United States Congress has sought to locate these individuals in the past and should continue to take all necessary steps to fulfill this important duty in the future; now, therefore, be it

Resolve, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 74th Legislature, hereby request the Congress of the United States to continue its efforts to determine the location and status of all United States military personnel still missing in Southeast Asia; and, be it further

Resolved, That official copies of this Resolution be prepared for the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress.

POM-316. A joint resolution adopted by the Assembly of the State of California; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

Whereas, It is estimated that 26,800 new cases of ovarian cancer will develop in the United States in 1997, and that ovarian cancer will cause approximately 14,200 deaths in 1997; and

Whereas, Ovarian cancer ranks second among gynecological cancers in the number of new cases each year and causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system; and

Whereas, Approximately 78 percent of ovarian cancer patients survive longer than one year after diagnosis and more than 46 percent of these patients survive longer than five years after diagnosis. If diagnosed and treated before the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the five-year survival rate is 92 percent. However, only approximately 24 percent of all cases of ovarian cancer are detected at this stage; and

Whereas, Ovarian cancer research is desperately needed. Research would encourage more women to undergo screening tests earlier, as well as reduce medical costs associated with later discovery; and

Whereas, House Bill No. 953, authored by Representative Patsy Mink, the Ovarian Cancer Research and Information Amendments of 1997, would authorize $90 million to conduct ovarian cancer research; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to support House Bill No. 953 by Representative Patsy Mink, the Ovarian Cancer Research and Information Amendments of 1997; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-317. A joint resolution adopted by the Assembly of the State of California; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, There are 110,000,000 landmines scattered in 69 countries, with this figure increasing dramatically year by year, continuing violence against civilians long after warfare has ceased; and

Whereas, These landmines are widely deployed in the developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; and

Whereas, Another victim is killed or maimed by landmines every 20 minutes, more than 25,000 each year, and most of the victims are children playing or women peasants seeking to feed their families; and

Whereas, In the worst affected areas, the landmines play havoc with the economy; refugees cannot return home, farmers cannot till the fields, relief shipments cannot be delivered, animals cannot reach waterholes, suitable lands are overfarmed, health care systems are overwhelmed, mine clearance costs are exorbitant; and

Whereas, The United States has been a major producer and exporter of anti-personnel landmines for a quarter century, although it has declared a moratorium, recently extended to 1999, on the export of anti-personnel landmines; and

Whereas, Many U.S. military leaders, including General Schwarzkopf, have confirmed that there is no need for anti-personnel landmines as weapons; and

Whereas, The United States has recognized the humanitarian cost of anti-personnel landmines and is pursuing efforts in the United Nations and elsewhere to address the problem; and

Whereas, Despite international momentum for a global ban on anti-personnel landmines, the latest United Nations conference failed to negotiate a ban; and

Whereas, More than 150 U.S. humanitarian organizations including the Red Cross, CARE, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, and World Vision, have joined more than 500 humanitarian organizations around the world in calling for an immediate ban on the production, stockpiling, use, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines; and

Whereas, The United States has joined over 70 other nations in putting forth a United Nations resolution calling for an international ban on the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, as well as being an active participant in the recent conference in Ottawa, Canada, that called for an international treaty; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California encourages the leaders of the United States to work with our allies and other nations toward the creation of an international ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, sale and use of anti-personnel landmines; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California also urges the President and the Congress of the United States to turn the recently enacted three-year extension of a moratorium on exports of anti-personnel landmines into a permanent ban; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-318. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, the United States is a signatory to the 1992 Rio Framework Convention on Global Climate Change ("FCCC"), and currently is participating in international negotiations pursuant to a United Nations agreement negotiated in Berlin in 1995 ("Berlin Mandate") to expand the scope of the FCCC; and

Whereas, the Berlin Mandate requires the United States, Western Europe, Japan, and other advanced industrial nations ("Developed Country Parties") to negotiate legally

binding quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives for greenhouse gases for the post-2000 period, while not increasing the commitments of developing countries such as China, India, and Mexico ("Developing Country Parties"); and

Whereas, the United States and other Developed Country Parties are pursuing policies aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2000, pursuant to the terms of the FCCC; and

Whereas, man-made emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide are caused primarily by the combustion of oil, coal, and natural gas fuels by industries, automobiles, and other uses of energy; and

Whereas, the United States relies on carbon-based fossil fuels for more than 90% of its total energy supply; and

Whereas, Developing Country Parties exempt from the Berlin Mandate are expected to increase their rates of economic growth and fossil fuel use over the next two decades, and to surpass the United States and other Developed Country Parties in total emissions of greenhouse gases; and

Whereas, 1997 studies prepared by the United States government estimate that legally binding requirements for the stabilization of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels would result in the loss of 900,000 jobs in the United States, sharply increased energy prices, reduced family incomes and wages, and severe losses of output in energy-intensive industries; and

Whereas, the exemption in the Berlin Mandate for new commitments by Developing Country Parties creates an unfair competitive imbalance between industrial and developing nations, potentially leading to the transfer of jobs and industrial development from Developed Country Parties to Developing Country Parties; and

Whereas, increased emission of greenhouse gases by Developing Country Parties would offset any environmental benefits associated with emission reductions achieved by the United States and other Developed Country Parties; and

Whereas, on July 25, 1997, the United States adopted Senate Resolution No. 98 by a vote of 95–0, expressing the Sense of the Senate that "the United States should not be a signatory to any protocol to or other agreement regarding, the Framework convention on Climate Change. * * * which would require the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, which would mandate new commitments to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions for the Developed Country Parties, unless the protocol or other agreement also mandates specific scheduled commitments within the same compliance period to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions for Developing Country Parties"; and

Whereas, Senate Resolution No. 98 further states that "the Senate strongly believes that the proposals under negotiation, because of the disparity of treatment between Developed and Developing Countries, and the level of required emission reductions, could result in serious harm to the United States economy, including significant job loss, trade disadvantages, increased energy and consumer costs, and tax increases"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky urge the President of the United States to avoid entering into any new climate treaty commitments pursuant to the Berlin Mandate that could lead to the loss of jobs, income, or economic development in the United States, or to increases in the price of energy to consumers, without corresponding commitments by Developing Country Parties as called for in United States Senate Resolution No. 98.

Section 2. The Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky urges the United States Senate to reject any proposed protocol or other amendment to the FCCC that is inconsistent with this Resolution, or that does not comply fully with United States Senate Resolution No. 98.

Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Albert Gore, Vice President, Old Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Wendell H. Ford, 173A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, 361A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Ed Whitfield, 236 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Ron Lewis, 412 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Anne Northup, 1004 Longworth Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Jim Bunning, 2437 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Harold Rogers, 2468 Rayburn Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and the Honorable Scotty Baesler, 113 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

POM–319. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, antipersonnel land mines kill or maim an average of 71 persons per day, the majority of whom are civilian; and

Whereas, the estimated 80,000,000 to 110,000,000 antipersonnel land mines strewn across at least 64 countries cause havoc in the economics of developing nations: refugees cannot return home, farmers cannot till fields, relief shipments cannot be delivered, herd animals cannot approach water holes, health care systems are overwhelmed by land mine victims and clearance costs are extraordinary; and

Whereas, the ecological and economic impact of antipersonnel land mines has yet to be fully calculated; and

Whereas, land mines render arable land useless and contribute to over-farming of suitable land; and

Whereas, the President of the United States spoke out at the United Nations in 1994 for a universal ban on the production, export, and use of land mines subsequent to which the United States has banned the export of land mines; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate urges the United States to take action to negotiate an international ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and use of antipersonnel land mines, with a view to completing the negotiations as soon as possible, by active participation in the Ottawa process by which an international treaty banning antipersonnel land mines will be ready for signing in December, 1997; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of the Congress and to the members thereof from this commonwealth.

POM–320. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 260

Whereas, The United States is a signatory to the 1992 Rio Framework Convention on Global Climate Change (FCCC) and currently is participating in international negotiations pursuant to a United Nations agreement negotiated in Berlin in 1995 (Berlin Mandate) to expand the scope of the FCCC; and

Whereas, The Berlin Mandate requires the United States, western Europe, Japan and other advanced industrial nations (Developed Country Parties) to negotiate legally binding quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives for greenhouse gases for the post-2000 period while not increasing the commitments of developing countries such as China, India and Mexico (Developing Country Parties); and

Whereas, The United States and other Developed Country Parties are pursuing policies aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2000 pursuant to the terms of the FCCC; and

Whereas, Man-made emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide are caused primarily by the combustion of oil, coal and natural gas fuels by industries, automobiles and other uses of energy; and

Whereas, The United States relies on carbon-based fossil fuels for more than 90% of its total energy supply; and

Whereas, Developing Country Parties exempt from the Berlin Mandate are expected to increase their rates of economic growth and fossil fuel use over the next two decades and to surpass the United States and other Developed Country Parties in total emissions of greenhouse gases; and

Whereas, The 1997 studies prepared by the United States Government estimate that legally binding requirements for the stabilization of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels would result in the loss of 1.7 million jobs in the United States, sharply increased energy prices, reduced family incomes and wages and severe losses of output in energy-intensive industries; and

Whereas, The exemption in the Berlin Mandate for new commitments by Developing Country Parties creates an unfair competitive imbalance between industrial and developing nations, potentially leading to the transfer of jobs and industrial development from Developed Country Parties to Developing Country Parties; and

Whereas, Increased emissions of greenhouse gases by Developing Country Parties would offset any environmental benefits associated with emissions reductions achieved by the United States and other Developed Country Parties; and

Whereas, On July 25, 1997, the United States Senate adopted Senate Resolution No. 98 by a vote of 95–0, expressing the Sense of the Senate that:

"(1) the United States should not be a signatory to any protocol to, or other agreement regarding, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1992, at negotiations in Kyoto in December 1997, or thereafter, which would—

(A) mandate new commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the Annex I Parties, unless the protocol or other agreement also mandates new specific scheduled commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Developing Countries Parties within the same compliance period, or

(B) would result in serious harm to the economy of the United States; and

(2) any such protocol or other agreement which would require the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification should be accompanied by a detailed explanation of any legislation or regulatory actions that may be required to implement the protocol or other agreement and should also be accompanied by an analysis of the detailed financial costs and other impacts on the economy of the United States which would be incurred by the implementation of the protocol or other agreement"; and

Whereas, Senate Resolution No. 98 further states that "the Senate strongly believes that the proposals under negotiation, because of the disparity of treatment between Annex I Parties and Developing Countries and the level of required emission reductions, could result in serious harm to the United States economy, including significant job loss, trade disadvantages, increased energy and consumer costs, or any combination thereof"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon the President of the United States to avoid entering into any new climate treaty commitments pursuant to the Berlin Mandate that could lead to the loss of jobs, income or economic development in the United States or to increases in the price of energy to consumers without corresponding commitments by Developing Country Parties as called for by Senate Resolution No. 98; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon the United States Senate to reject any proposed protocol or other amendment to the FCCC that is inconsistent with this resolution or that does not comply fully with Senate Resolution No. 98; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate and to the members of the United States Senate.

POM-321. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

Whereas, The United States is a signatory to the 1992 Rio Framework Convention on Global Climate Change (FCCC) and currently is participating in international negotiations pursuant to a United Nations agreement negotiated in Berlin in 1995 (Berlin Mandate) to expand the scope of the FCCC; and

Whereas, The Berlin Mandate requires the United States, western Europe, Japan and other advanced industrial nations (Developed Country Parties) to negotiate legally binding quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives for greenhouse gases for the post-2000 period while not increasing the commitments of developing countries such as China, India and Mexico (Developing Country Parties); and

Whereas, The United States and other Developed Country Parties are pursuing policies aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2000 pursuant to the terms of the FCCC; and

Whereas, Man-made emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide are caused primarily by the combustion of oil, coal and natural gas fuels by industries, automobiles and other uses of energy; and

Whereas, The United States relies on carbon-based fossil fuels for more than 90% of its total energy supply; and

Whereas, Developing Country Parties exempt from the Berlin Mandate are expected to increase their rates of economic growth and fossil fuel use over the next two decades and to surpass the United States and other Developed Country Parties in total emissions of greenhouse gases; and

Whereas, The 1997 studies prepared by the United States Government estimate that legally binding requirements for the stabilization of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels would result in the loss of 1.7 million jobs in the United States, sharply increased energy prices, reduced family incomes and wages and severe losses of output in energy-intensive industries; and

Whereas, The exemption in the Berlin Mandate for new commitments by Developing Country Parties creates an unfair competitive imbalance between industrial and developing nations, potentially leading to the transfer of jobs and industrial development from Developed Country Parties to Developing Country Parties; and

Whereas, Increased emissions of greenhouse gases by Developing Country Parties would offset any environmental benefits associated with emissions reductions achieved by the United States and other Developing Country Parties; and

Whereas, On July 25, 1997, the United States Senate adopted Senate Resolution No. 98 by a vote of 95-0, expressing the Sense of the Senate that:

"(1) the United States should not be a signatory to any protocol to, or other agreement regarding, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1992, at negotiations in Kyoto in December 1997, or thereafter, which would—

(A) mandate new commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the Annex I Parties, unless the protocol or other agreement also mandates new specific scheduled commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Developing Country Parties within the same compliance period; or

(B) would result in serious harm to the economy of the United States; and

(2) any such protocol or other agreement which would require the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification should be accompanied by a detailed explanation of any legislation or regulatory actions that may be required to implement the protocol or other agreement and should also be accompanied by an analysis of the detailed financial costs and other impacts on the economy of the United States which would be incurred by the implementation of the protocol or other agreement"; and

Whereas, Senate Resolution No. 98 further states that "the Senate strongly believes that the proposals under negotiation, because of the disparity of treatment between Annex I Parties and Developing Countries and the level of required emission reductions, could result in serious harm to the United States economy, including significant job loss, trade disadvantages, increased energy and consumer costs, or any combination thereof"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon the President of the United States to avoid entering into any new climate treaty commitments pursuant to the Berlin Mandate that could lead to the loss of jobs, income or economic development in the United States or to increases in the price of energy to consumers without corresponding commitments by Developing Country Parties as called for by Senate Resolution No. 98; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon the United States Senate to reject any proposed protocol or other amendment to the FCCC that is inconsistent with this resolution or that does not comply fully with Senate Resolution No. 98; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate and to the members of the United States Senate.

POM-322. A petition from citizens of the United States relative to global climate change; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-322. A petition from citizens of the United States relative to global climate change; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-323. A resolution adopted by the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers relative to the Million Solar Roof Initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-324. A petition from a citizen of the State of North Dakota relative to a redress of grievance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-325. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 185

Whereas, Teterboro Airport is located in the boroughs of Teterboro and Moonachie in Bergen County, New Jersey, a heavily populated residential and commercial area; and

Whereas, Teterboro Airport is designated as one of the reliever airports for Newark International Airport's scheduled airline service and also functions as a major business aviation center for corporate and private aviation operations; and

Whereas, In recent years the character of Teterboro Airport has changed from an airport which has had a limited number of larger jet aircraft and corporate jet activity to one in which a greater number of larger jets are permitted to operate at the airport and where corporate jet activity operates at a high level; and

Whereas, Plans are being discussed to expand corporate jet activity at Teterboro Airport by using it as a reliever airport for Newark International Airport's corporate jet traffic; and

Whereas, The confluence of airline traffic from Newark International Airport, Teterboro Airport, LaGuardia and Kennedy Airports over the residential communities of northern New Jersey, such as the communities of Hasbrouck Heights, Little Ferry, Lodi, Moonachie, South Hackensack and Wood-Ridge in the Teterboro area, creates an intolerable level of aircraft noise for residents of these communities which adversely affects their physical and mental health and well-being, and lowers the property values of their residences; and

Whereas, It is in the public interest for steps to be taken to control the level of aviation noise caused by excessive aircraft traffic at Teterboro Airport and prevent the expansion of further corporate jet activity at that facility; now, therefore; be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey.

1. The Congress of the United States and the Federal Aviation Administration are respectfully memorialized to take appropriate steps to control the level of aviation noise at Teterboro Airport in Bergen County, New

Jersey, and to prevent the expansion of further corporate jet activity at that facility.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, every member of Congress from this State and the Director of the Federal Aviation Administration.

POM-326. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 169

Whereas, The Port of New York and New Jersey ("port district") is at a critical and historic juncture in its economic development as the Northeast's primary transportation hub; and

Whereas, The port district's transportation network will be increasingly pressured to facilitate the movement of both people and freight commodities throughout the port district as efficiently and as cost effectively as possible; and

Whereas, Although the port district is endowed with an existing rail-freight infrastructure, this infrastructure is in need of comprehensive repair and modernization and is currently underutilized because of these conditions, resulting in a considerable imbalance between the use of rail freight and the use of truck freight throughout the port district; and

Whereas, The New York Cross Harbor Railroad (NYCHRR), the port district's only interstate short-line marine rail-freight carrier, with direct links to the recently approved "Conrail, CSX and the Norfolk & Southern Network," is considered a key rail-freight hub for the port district and an integral part of the effort to improve interstate rail-freight commerce between the economic and transportation networks of New Jersey and New York; and

Whereas, The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) is a six-year program authorized to provide a total of $155 billion for highway and mass transportation purposes; and

Whereas, ISTEA has provided significant, annual federal funding to New Jersey and all other states to help develop a strong, globally-competitive economy and to improve the mobility, safety and well-being of our nation's residents; and

Whereas, The NYCHRR has requested, as part of the reauthorization of the ISTEA, approval of a project, entitled the "Rail Freight Initiative," to enhance the NYCHRR's operational infrastructure and to upgrade its operational equipment, in order to bolster its ability to facilitate interstate commerce in the port district; and

Whereas, This "Rail Freight Initiative," would include a minimal expenditure of $4.75 million from the ISTEA reauthorization bill, with 80 percent of the estimated project cost coming from the federal government, and with the NYCHRR funding the remaining 20 percent; and

Whereas, $1.5 million of the $4.75 million cost will be used for improvements to the NYCHRR's Greenville Yards facilities in Jersey City, which will allow the NYCHRR to handle much higher volumes of rail freight, without cost to the State of New Jersey or the city of Jersey City; and

Whereas, Congressional approval of the "Rail Freight Initiative" will serve to correct the current imbalance between regional truck freight and the use of rail and intermodal freight systems throughout the Port of New York and New Jersey, and promote the development of, and the investment in, enhanced rail, intermodal and float-barging systems within the port district; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Congress of the United States is memorialized to approve a project request, as part of reauthorization of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, to support the efforts to enhance, trans-harbor rail-freight float-barging operations throughout the Port of New York and New Jersey.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected thereto from New Jersey.

POM-327. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Whereas, Thousands of Holocaust survivors who fled Poland and Eastern Europe to the United States, Israel, Russia and other Eastern European nations may be living around the world, not knowing that family members from whom they were separated during the Holocaust are also still alive; and

Whereas, In July 1996, Russian resident Solomon Bromberg and his sister, Israeli resident Rivka Bromberg Feingold, were reunited after a separation of more than 60 years, both having believed that their entire family had been murdered during the Holocaust; and

Whereas, The Bromberg siblings were reunited after a business acquaintance, returning from a trip to Russia, contacted Israel's Jewish Agency, an organization which attempts to reunite family members separated during the Holocaust; and

Whereas, Many other Holocaust survivors are trying to locate living family members from whom they were separated during the Holocaust, thereby highlighting the significance of efforts long pursued by organizations such as the Red Cross and Israel's Jewish Agency to reunite family members separated during the Holocaust; and

Whereas, Coordinated efforts of the United States, foreign nations, especially Israel, Russia, Poland and other Eastern European nations, and organizations such as the Red Cross and Israel's Jewish Agency will help to reunite family members separated during the Holocaust; and

Whereas, A concurrent resolution sponsored by Congressman Robert Franks introduced in the United States Congress encouraging the Secretary of State, foreign nations and others to work together to support the effort to reunite family members separated during the Holocaust has yet to be reported from the Committee on International Relations to the entire House of Representatives; now, therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House recognizes the enormous significance of helping families locate family members who may have survived the Holocaust, pays tribute to the inspirational efforts of those helping reunite family members separated during the Holocaust and endorses every attempt to coordinate these meaningful efforts.

2. This House urges the United States Congress to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 14 of 1997, which encourages the Secretary of State, foreign nations, especially Israel, Russia, Poland and other Eastern European nations, and organizations such as the Red Cross and Israel's Jewish Agency to coordinate efforts to help reunite family members separated during the Holocaust.

3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and every member of the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives.

POM-328. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Lincoln Park, Michigan relative to a proposed global warming treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-329. A resolution adopted by the Orange County Legislative Delegation of the Legislature of the State of Florida relative to the former Orlando Naval Training Center; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-330. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Crossville, Tennessee relative to the Obed River; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-331. A resolution adopted by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. relative to the Artic Council; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-332. A resolution adopted by the Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains Park Commission relative to the Foothills Parkway; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-333. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 304

Whereas, Over the past 111 years, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, a Pittsburgh institution, has developed into a major national and international force in the fields of nuclear development, power generation, manufacturing and research, having helped create America's nuclear naval fleet and establishing worldwide leadership in the commercial nuclear power fields; and

Whereas, More than 7,000 people in western Pennsylvania are employed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and thousands of other jobs are affected by the spin-off effects of Westinghouse Electric Corporation's business enterprises; and

Whereas, On December 1, 1997, Westinghouse Electric Corporation is changing its name to CBS Corporation and moving its headquarters from Pittsburgh to New York City; and

Whereas, Westinghouse Electric Corporation has announced the sale of its non-nuclear power generation business, which had $2.2 billion in sales last year, to its former competitor, Siemens AG, a German company, for $1.53 billion; and

Whereas, Westinghouse Electric Corporation has announced plans to sell its commercial nuclear power business, and the leading bidders are expected to be Siemens AG of Germany; Framatome SA, partially owned by the French government; or the Swedish/Swiss-owned ASEA Brown Boveri; and

Whereas, The sale of the Westinghouse nuclear and non-nuclear business divisions to foreign-owned companies could have an impact on the military preparedness of the United States; and

Whereas, The elimination of such a leading company in the domestic energy market may serve to restrict that market and stifle free market trade, thereby having a detrimental impact on American consumers and suppliers; and

Whereas, The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice each have the authority to examine the antitrust implications of the proposed Westinghouse Electric Corporation sale of its nuclear and non-nuclear business holdings; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to direct both the FTC and the Department of Justice to examine the proposed actions of Westinghouse Electric Corporation to determine whether the sales would stifle competition, significantly raise consumer and supplier prices or detrimentally impact suppliers of the nuclear and non-nuclear power generation market; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1237. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to further improve the safety and health of working environments, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105–159).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1569. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to raise the 15 percent income tax bracket into middle class income levels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 1570. A bill to limit the amount of attorneys' fees that may be paid on behalf of States and other plaintiffs under the tobacco settlement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1571. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRYAN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. REID, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1572. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from promulgating certain regulations relating to Indian gaming activities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1573. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the Federal minimum wage; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1574. A bill to prohibit the cloning of humans; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LOTT, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. COATS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. MACK, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FRIST, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 1575. A bill to rename the Washington National Airport located in the District of Columbia and Virginia as the "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport"; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 164. A resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 165. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. Res. 166. A resolution recognizing the outstanding achievements of the Denver Broncos in winning Super Bowl XXXII; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 167. A resolution recognizing the outstanding achievement of the Denver Bronco's quarterback, John Elway, in the victory of the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXXII; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. MACK):

S. Res. 168. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Department of Education, States, and local education agencies should spend a greater percentage of Federal education tax dollars in our children's classrooms; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. BOND, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 169. A resolution to designate February 3, 1998, as "Four Chaplains Day"; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1569. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to raise the 15 percent income tax bracket into middle class income levels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 1998

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 1998. Last year, this Congress passed historic legislation: the Balanced Budget Act providing the first balanced budget in nearly thirty years, and the Taxpayer Relief Act providing tax relief for the first time in sixteen years. As a result, faith in the Nation's economy is strong, and we are seeing the results of that faith.

Now is the time for us to consider sweeping middle class tax relief. This tax relief proposal accomplishes several goals. First, it directs the vast majority of the relief to those who feel the tax squeeze the most: middle-income taxpayers.

Second, because it is across-the-board relief, every middle class taxpayers wins. Every American earning $25,000 taxable income or more would see relief. Estimates by the Tax Foundation show that approximately 25 million taxpayers would see tax relief this year with two-thirds earning less than $75,000 annually.

Third, it provides significant marriage penalty relief without adding complexity to the tax code.

Fourth, this is one of the very few proposals that is also entirely consistent with the long-term goal of a flatter, simpler tax code.

My proposal, the Middle Class Tax Relief Act, achieves these goals by raising the roof on the 15% individual income tax bracket. In other words, it returns middle class taxpayers to the lowest individual income bracket. Married couples with taxable income of $70,000 or less would be taxed at the 15% tax bracket, an increase over the 1998 threshold of $42,350. The threshold for heads of households would be $52,600, an increase over the current threshold of $33,950. Finally, the thresholds for single workers would be set at $35,000, an increase over the current threshold of $25,350.

In the coming weeks, a great deal of discussion will focus on providing the American people with the tax relief they need and deserve, and how that is to be accomplished. There are a number of proposals providing tax relief, some of which I am a supporter. However, I believe the Middle Class Tax Relief Act will be successful ultimately because it is actually achievable during this Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1571. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age; to the Committee on Finance.

THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S FREEDOM TO WORK ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "Senior Citizen's Freedom to Work Act." This bill would fully repeal the erroneous Social Security earnings limit.

Since coming to the Senate in 1987, I have been working to eliminate the discriminatory and unfair Earnings Test.

I am pleased that in 1996, Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law my bill, the Senior Citizens Right to Work Act. This legislation took a step in the right direction by increasing the earning threshold for senior citizens from $11,520 to $30,000 by the year 2000. Now it is time to eliminate the unjust Earnings Test in its entirety.

Most Americans are shocked and appalled when they discover that older Americans are penalized for working. Nobody should be penalized for working or discouraged from engaging in work. Yet, this is exactly what the Social Security Earnings Test does to our nation's senior citizens. The Social Security Earnings Test punishes Americans between the ages of 65 and 70 for their attempts to remain productive after retirement.

The Social Security Earnings Test mandates that for every $3 earned by a retiree over the established limit, $19,999.92 in 1998, the retiree loses $1 in Social Security benefits. This is clearly age discrimination, and it is very wrong. Due to this cap on earnings, our senior citizens, many of whom exist on fixed, low-incomes, are burdened with a 33.3 percent tax on their earned income. When this is combined with Federal, State, local and other Social Security taxes, it amounts to an outrageous 55 to 65 percent tax bite and even higher. This earnings limit is punitive and serves as a tremendous disincentive to work. An individual who is struggling to make ends meet on approximately $19,000 a year should not be faced with an effective marginal tax rate which exceeds 55 percent.

The Social Security Earnings Test is a relic of the Great Depression, designed to move older people out of the workforce and create employment for younger individuals. This is an archaic policy and should no longer be our goal because our nation's labor pool is shrinking. Many senior citizens can make a significant contribution, and often their knowledge and experience compliments or exceeds that of younger employees. Tens of millions of Americans are over the age of 65, and together they have over a billion years of cumulative work experience. These individuals have valuable experience to offer our society, and we need them.

In addition, experts predict a labor shortage when the "baby boom" generation ages, and it is evident that employers will have to develop new sources of income as our elderly population continues to grow much faster than the number of workers entering the workforce. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "retaining older workers is a priority in labor intensive industries, and will become even more critical as we approach the year 2000." To me it seems counterproductive and foolish to keep willing, diligent workers out of the American workforce. Our country must continue to support pro-work, not pro-welfare policies.

More importantly, many of the older Americans penalized by the earnings test need to work in order to cover their basic expenses; health care, housing and food. Many seniors do not have significant savings or a private pension. For this reason, low-income workers are particularly hard-hit by the earnings test.

It is important to note that wealthy seniors, who have lucrative investments, stocks, and substantial savings are not affected by the earnings limits. Their supplemental "unearned" income is not subject to the earnings threshold. The earnings limit only affects seniors who must work and depend on their earned income for survival.

Finally, let me stress that repealing the burdensome and unfair earnings test would not jeopardize the solvency of the Social Security funds. Opponents who claim otherwise are engaging in cruel scare tactics. It is important to remember that the Social Security benefits which working seniors are losing due to the earnings test penalty are benefits they have rightfully earned by contributing to the system throughout their working years before retiring. These are benefits which they should not be losing because they are trying to survive by supplementing their Social Security income. Furthermore, certain studies indicate that repealing the earnings test would result in a net increase of $140 million in federal revenue.

Mr. President, there is no compelling justification for denying economic opportunity to an individual on the basis of age. It is quite evident that the earnings test is outdated, unjust and discriminatory. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation which would eliminate this egregious law.

By Mr. BRYAN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. REID, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1572. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from promulgating certain regulations relating to Indian gaming activities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

GAMING ACTIVITIES LEGISLATION

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, Senators ENZI, REID and I are today introducing legislation to stop the Interior Department from moving forward with regulations that in my view trample on States rights and invade the province of Governors and State legislators to determine what kinds of gaming activities will occur in their States. This proposed regulation flies in the face of the intent of Congress.

I must say I am disappointed we are forced to take this step and would hope that the Secretary of the Interior would reconsider his ill-advised action. Last week the Secretary of Interior proposed rules that would allow the Interior Department to be the sole arbiter in the compacting process as to what kinds of gaming activities can be conducted on Native American lands. This is being done over the strong objections of the Nation's Governors and the Nation's Attorneys General, as well as the intent of Congress.

I believe that in so doing, the Secretary is overstepping his authority and is making a grave mistake. In what I consider particularly convoluted logic, the Department has asserted that because the courts have struck down certain provisions of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, referred to as IGRA, that they can step in and decide on their own what gaming activities States must allow tribes to engage in.

I think by way of background, Mr. President, it may be helpful to share with my colleagues the basis of the underlying legislation as it relates to Native American gaming activities. In 1988, the Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and in so doing, tribal gaming activities were and are divided into three categories, with class I being reserved as traditional Indian games, class II being bingo-type games, and class III being casino-type games. Now, with respect to class III gaming, under the law, States and tribal governments negotiate a compact as to what type of games are to be permitted, if any, within class III.

Under recent court decisions, Governors are required to negotiate with tribes only on gaming activity that is permitted by law in that State. For instance, Hawaii and Utah prohibit all forms of gaming, and therefore their respective Governors are not required to negotiate with tribes for any types of gaming activity. In Nevada, where we permit all forms of casino gaming, that is class III gaming, the State is required to enter into a compact with tribes allowing them to engage in all forms of gaming, and indeed without conflict or controversy five such compacts have been entered into.

The Secretary has chosen, however, to put his own legal interpretation of what types of gaming activities must be put on the negotiating table. This so-called "scope of gaming" issue was fought out in the courts and decided in favor of Governors in the Rumsey case. The Rumsey case held that Governors are not forced to negotiate other gaming activities that are not permitted in the State in general.

The Secretary appears to be trying to circumvent this decision and would force States, for example, that would allow a lottery and require them to negotiate with Indian tribes to make slot machines available, even though slot machines are illegal in that State. Given this clearly skewed legal interpretation, it seems to me that the Governors' fears are well-founded.

The Department holds the position of fiduciary and trust obligation to the tribes and is an acknowledged advocate for tribal interests. The Department is taking the position that it should be the sole arbiter between the interest of the State and tribes in negotiating what form and scope of gaming should be permitted when it clearly has a bias in favor of one of the parties.

It is no wonder the Governors said in their December 5 letter to President Clinton that they will actively oppose any independent assertion by the Secretary of his power to authorize tribal governments to operate class III gaming.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the December 5, 1997, letter addressed to the President by the Western Governors' Association, signed by its chairman, Governor Knowles of Alaska, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION,
Denver, CO, December 5, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: It is the understanding of the Western Governor's Association that the Secretary of Interior has proposed a rule-making on Indian Gaming that would usurp the Governors authority to enter into compact negotiations on gaming with Indian tribes. States have repeatedly voiced their concerns about the Secretary's desire to promulgate this rule. On October 10, a letter was sent by the National Governors' Association Chairman and Vice Chairman to the Secretary of Interior on this rule-making proposal.

It is evident that the states' concerns have gone unheard or at least have not been responded to by the Secretary. As a former Governor, you can appreciate how troubling it is when a cabinet member fails to consider or enter into a dialogue with us about state's legitimate concerns.

The Secretary is using the Seminole Tribe of Florida vs. Florida decision by the Supreme Court to inappropriately expand his authority. The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) established a procedure whereby decisions could be made when a state and tribe were unable to agree to the terms of a compact. Before the Secretary is authorized to provide a compact to a tribe under IGRA, the courts must first make a finding of bad faith on the part of the state. When the Supreme Court stuck down the portion of IGRA that permitted tribes to sue states in Federal Court, it eliminated the mechanism for arriving at a finding of bad faith by the court. It would be inappropriate for the Secretary to now take the authority to render a finding of bad faith and then to authorize a gaming compact to a tribe over the objections of a state. Moreover, the Secretary's action contradicts the clear intent of Congress as embodied in the final Interior conference report that you signed, which imposes a one-year moratorium on imposition of a procedure that would result in tribal Class III gaming in the absence of a tribal-state compact as required by law.

As the National Governors' Association policy states "nothing remains in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act or any other law that endows the Secretary with the authority to independently create such a process. The Governors will actively oppose any independent assertion by the Secretary of the power to authorize tribal governments to operate Class III Gaming. State and tribal governments are best qualified to craft agreements on the scope and conduct of Class III Gaming under IGRA." Furthermore, under the duties of the office, the Secretary has a special legal relationship to Native Americans, and it would be impossible for him to be objective in making decisions settling compact differences between states and tribes—in effect the Secretary becomes a self-appointed judge and jury.

There are difficult issues, and we understand the Secretary intepretating his role as advocate for Native Americans. However, Governors have Constitutional responsibilities to all of the people of our states. Based on these responsibilities we are compelled to tell you that the Secretary started down an unproductive path when we concluded that the Interior Department should become the sole arbiter in the compact process.

We urge you to find a resolution to the conflicts between the states and tribes that is more appropriate than that initiated by the Secretary. The Western Governors Association stands ready to participate in such an effort.

Sincerely,

TOM KNOWLES,
Governor of Alaska,
Chairman.

Mr. BRYAN. The Governors have repeatedly called the Secretary's proposal an inappropriate expansion of his authorities. Governors of the State in the process of negotiating a gaming compact with tribes will be severely disadvantaged by this proposal. Tribes will be much better off letting the Secretary of the Interior decide their fate—believing they can get a better deal from a person who is an acknowledged advocate for their interests and indeed encourages gaming as a means of generating tribal revenues.

The Department asserts the States must be acting in bad faith for the Secretary to strip the States of their rights. Of course, the Secretary is the judge and jury over whether the States, in fact, are negotiating in bad faith. To make matters even worse and to heighten the concerns the Governors have, the Department has informed us that they would consider the actions of Governor Wilson of California to be negotiating in bad faith because he refuses to negotiate with any tribe that persists in operating illegal games on tribal reservations. As Governor Wilson has indicated, he has a simple rule: If it is legal under State law, all can do it; if it is not legal under State law, no one can do it. The Governor wants the tribes to cease and desist illegal gaming activities before he will negotiate a compact or legal game, and the Interior Department would consider that bad faith.

Now, that situation is not peculiar to California alone. Let me cite an example, if I may, Mr. President, in a letter addressed to the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, July 1, 1996, on behalf of the National Governors' Association. I quote a single paragraph from that letter. It arises out of the situation that occurred in the State of Florida.

The factual situation underlying the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Seminole is an example of typical tribal-State conflict over IGRA implementation. Florida refused to negotiate with the Seminole Tribe over the operation of slot machines. Slot machines are prohibited by Florida law, and state voters have rejected three referenda to legalize such devices, as well as other casino-style games. The state's public policy and the preference of Florida citizens with respect to this type of gambling activity could not be clearer. Yet the Seminole Tribe proceeded to take the state to court on the grounds that Florida had failed to negotiate in good faith, even though the state was merely negotiating within the limits of state law and state public policy on gambling.

Again, under the proposed regulation, the Interior Department would interpret the Florida situation as being one of bad faith and therefore the Interior Department could step in—in effect, supersede the negotiations and the position taken by Florida's Governor in response to voter preference and public policy in the State of Florida—and to negotiate a compact that could conceivably allow a full range of casino gaming activity contrary to the public policy of that State.

Mr. President, I am personally offended that the Department has chosen to proceed with rulemaking in clear violation of the intent of Congress. Members will recall that Senator ENZI and I attached language to the Interior appropriations bill which imposes a moratorium on the Department implementing such a rule. The language reads: "During fiscal year 1998, the Secretary may not expend any funds made available under this act to review or approve any initial tribal-State compact for class III gaming entered into on or after the day of the enactment of this act, except for a compact which has been approved in accordance with IGRA and State law." That contemplates the negotiating process between Governors and the tribal governments, as I indicated previously.

Nevertheless, the Department has chosen to ignore our intent and to proceed with putting this process in place, which Congress has clearly said it doesn't want. Since the Department has chosen to ignore the clear intent of Congress, we are forced to stop this power grab once again through the legislative process.

I might note over 100 compacts between States and tribes for class III

gaming have been successfully negotiated. As I pointed out previously, five of those compacts are in place in Nevada. In only a handful of States has the compacting process failed. I believe the failure can be attributed to the unwillingness of Federal prosecutors to close down illegal tribal gaming operations. Tribes running illegal operations have no incentive to reach an agreement with States as long as they face no consequences for their illegal gaming activities.

In California alone, tribes are operating 14,000 illegal slot machines. It is not clear to me why the Secretary of Interior feels the need to stack the deck even further against the interests of those States who do not favor, as a matter of public policy, slot machines in their States.

So, Mr. President, I hope that the Secretary will reconsider this ill-advised proposal. If not, we will work with the Nation's Governors and Nation's attorneys general on this legislation to block the emasculation of States' rights.

This bill is introduced by myself, Senator ENZI, and Senator REID.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. TORRICELLI and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1573. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the Federal minimum wage; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 1998

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on behalf of Senators WELLSTONE, MIKULSKI, MOSELEY-BRAUN, KERRY, TORRICELLI, BOXER, and myself, I am introducing the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1998, a bill to raise the minimum wage in three annual increases of 50 cents each in the next three years, to bring the minimum wage from its current level of $5.15 an hour today to $6.65 an hour on September 1 in the year 2000. Congressmen BONIOR and GEPHARDT are introducing identical legislation in the House of Representatives.

After the third year, the legislation calls for the minimum wage to be indexed, so that it will rise automatically as the cost of living increases. Working Americans should not have to depend on the whim of Congress each election year to determine whether they are paid a fair minimum wage.

In 1996, after a hard-fought battle in the last Congress, we raised the minimum wage, and the economy continued to grow. The scare tactics about lost jobs proved to be as false as they are self-serving. A recent study by the Economic Policy Institute documents that "the sky hasn't fallen" as a result of the last increase.

Raising the minimum wage does not cause job loss for teenagers, adults, men, women, African-Americans, Latinos, or anyone else. Certainly, the 12 million Americans who would benefit from this legislation deserve the increase.

We know who these workers are. Sixty percent are women. Nearly three-quarters are adults. Half of those who would benefit from this bill work full-time. Over 80 percent of them work at least 20 hours a week. They are teachers' aides and child care providers. They are single heads of households with children. They are people who clean office buildings in countless communities across the country. Working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, minimum wage workers earn $10,712 a year—$2,600 below the poverty level for a family of three.

No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty. In good conscience, we cannot continue to proclaim or celebrate the Nation's current prosperity while consigning millions who have jobs to live in continuing poverty.

The value of the minimum wage still lags far behind inflation. To have the purchasing power that it had in 1968, the minimum wage today would have to be $7.33 an hour instead of the current level of $5.15 an hour. That fact is a measure of how far we have not just fallen short, but actually fallen back, in giving low-income workers their fair share of our extraordinary economic growth.

In the past 30 years, the stock market, adjusted for inflation, has gone up by 115 percent, while the purchasing power of the minimum wage has gone down by 30 percent. Lavish end-of-the-year bonuses were recently distributed on Wall Street—but not to the working families on Main Street, who actually created the wealth in the first place.

Americans understand that those on the bottom rungs of the economic ladder deserve a raise. Seventy-six percent of those surveyed in the January 21 ABC-Washington Post poll said they supported increasing the minimum wage.

Seventy-seven percent of those surveyed by Peter Hart Research earlier this month specifically supported a three-year, $1.50 increase.

The American people understand the unfairness of requiring working families to subsist on a sub-poverty minimum wage. Across the country, soup kitchens, food pantries and homeless shelters are increasingly serving the working poor, not just the unemployed. In 1996, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 38 percent of those seeking emergency food aid held jobs —up from 23 percent in 1994. Low-paying jobs are the most frequently cited cause of hunger. Officials in 67 percent of the cities cited this factor.

I look forward to the early enactment of this legislation. Twelve million working Americans deserve a helping hand. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

Mr. President, we have had the opportunity, since the minimum wage was increased in the last two years, to test the validity of the principal argument in opposition to this bill. We will hear this claim again this year on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and that is, that this adds to the problems of inflation. Yet, we have had virtually no inflation over these last 18 months.

We will also hear that raising the minimum wage will cause the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs. I can already hear the same tired, old arguments we have heard every time this body has debated an increase in the minimum wage—an estimate that we will lose anywhere from 200,000 to 300,000 to 400,000 jobs. Those were the statements made the last time we debated this issue on the floor of the Senate. And our good Republican friends in the House of Representatives said there was absolutely no way that their body was going to consider an increase in the minimum wage, and there was strong opposition over here among the Republican leadership in the Senate even to giving us an opportunity to vote on this measure. It was only after lengthy efforts that we were able actually to gain a vote and to develop bipartisan support for the minimum wage. Ultimately, the Senate of the United States and the House of Representatives responded after we added significant tax reductions for businesses to the legislation.

Mr. President, if we do not take action now to increase the minimum wage, then the progress we made in the last two years is gradually going to deteriorate. Even with a three-year increase of 50 cents, 50 cents, and 50 cents, by the third year the about 40 cents of the value of that $1.50 would have dissipated because of inflation. We are talking about working families who are trying to make it in this country, who have played an important role in this whole economic expansion. But those at the bottom rungs of the economic ladder have not gotten their fair share of the extraordinary prosperity that we are experiencing under President Clinton's leadership.

So I don't understand why there is such opposition to the very modest increases that we are talking about, that even if implemented will hardly permit workers to provide for their families and be out of poverty. As a result of the 1996 welfare reform legislation, many, many more people were thrown into poverty. In many instances, they are not going to get the health care or the day care that they need, depending on a particular State's rules in this regard. But there will be millions of Americans who will be out there in the job market without the health care for their children that Medicaid would

have provided or child care coverage that welfare benefits would have provided.

What we are asking is that at least we pay them a livable wage. I don't think a single parent, with $10,000 or $12,000, is going to have the kind of child care that any of us would understand or respect. Yesterday, I was in Dorchester, Massachusetts, meeting with parents about an after school program, which has been in effect for a number of years. It's going to be expanded. The mayor of Boston calls it the 2-to-6 program, and is trying to make available, in all parts of Boston, after-school programs for children. It is a very ambitious program. We have seen our Republican Governor indicate that he is supporting the after-school program. I listened to the parents who were out there, who talked about what happens after their children are 12 years old. The State of Massachusetts has a program that provides modest support for this kind of program for children up to 12 years old, but cuts it off there. Parents with tears in their eyes were saying, "We work hard trying to provide for our families, and we just can't make it. Our children are going home and staying in an empty house in the afternoon." They pray that they are not going to get themselves in trouble, that the worst thing that will happen to them is they will just watch television. It might cost those parents $5 or $10 a week, maybe $20 a month to be able to have an after-school program. I expect that any single mom getting an increase in the minimum wage wouldn't think that much of a problem. That is happening in many communities in this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the 10 minutes allocated to the Senator have expired.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent for 4 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we will have a chance to debate this issue. It is not one that should take a great deal of time to review. We have been through this debate time and time again. It hasn't got the complexities of many of the proposals the President will be talking about tonight. It is basic and fundamental. Every Member of this body has addressed this issue and voted on it one way or the other. It is going to be really a reflection of our values.

Finally, Mr. President, by not increasing the minimum wage, we leave many workers so poor that they are eligible for government assistance programs, such as food stamps. These programs are being paid for by other workers' taxes. In effect, these employees are subsidizing the businesses that aren't paying a fair wage. I think that is wrong.

We will have a chance to review the latest economic information available. We have to address that issue. We understand it. Some of us believe that Americans who work hard and play by the rules ought to be able to get a livable wage as a matter of principle. To achieve that goal, we have to address the impact on inflation and job loss. We will make that argument and we will make it with a great deal of enthusiasm. Two articles from the Wall Street Journal show that the increase in the minimum wage did not cause job loss or increase inflation. I will include those articles in the RECORD at the appropriate place following my remarks. Here was the newspaper that opposed it hammer and tong the last time we had the increase. I do not suggest that they are going to editorialize in favor of it this time. But, nonetheless, the various studies have shown that there is no evidence that modest increases in the minimum wage would harm the economy or cause job loss.

Mr. President, I don't know what will be in the President's State of the Union speech tonight. There are some reports that he will indicate support for an increase in the minimum wage. And if he does I hope that our Chambers will show support for that proposal because I know it will make all the difference in the world for millions of Americans and their families. Increasing the minimum wage will allow them to look to the future with a greater sense of hope.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I have a couple of questions that I may want to put to my colleague in just a moment.

Mr. President, the Senator from Massachusetts touched on two concerns that I want to speak about for a brief period of time. The Senator mentioned welfare. Earlier when I was speaking I didn't talk about the welfare bill. But I want the Senator to know that as we see the reports that this has been a huge success because there are 4 million fewer people receiving welfare assistance, I think there has been a lot of confusion. Welfare reform doesn't mean that there are fewer people on welfare. It doesn't mean you reduce the number of people receiving assistance. It means you reduce poverty. That is what it is about. It works if you are reducing the poverty for these families which are 90 percent women and children.

When I have been traveling around the country it is heartbreaking. The Senator talks about after school. There are 3- and 4-year olds home alone right now. That should not be the case because mothers are told to work. There are also preschoolers who are in very ad hoc arrangements with a relative for this week or that week, then somebody else the next week. We don't have affordable child care. In East LA in Los Angeles there is a waiting list of 30,000 for affordable child care. The President will be speaking about that tonight. Mr. President, there are first- and second-graders.

I met a woman in Los Angeles who broke down crying because she is so scared because her first-grader goes home alone—she is at work—to a very dangerous housing project, and is told to lock the door, and take no phone calls. There are children who don't play outside right now.

So when the Senator from Massachusetts talked about child care, I just want to emphasize the fact that welfare reform only means reduction of poverty. It means that children are in safe places receiving good child care. That is not happening.

Mr. President, I also want to point out that there are too many mothers who in our community colleges who are now told, "You cannot pursue your education. You have to work." The job is $5.15, and if the minimum wage isn't higher one year later they will be worse off.

I am going to have an amendment for student deferment for those mothers because that is toward economic self-sufficiency, and another amendment that is going to require States to provide to Health and Human Services the data in 6 months as to how many families are moving toward economic self-sufficiency because you just can't eliminate people from assistance and cut off assistance if people do not have the jobs and decent wages.

Mr. President, I wanted to ask the Senator this question. The Senator from Massachusetts was speaking to an issue that I hear about everywhere I go, and it sounds like the President is going to be speaking to it, which is that I think people in our country believe that if you play by the rules of the game and you work 40 hours a week or thereabouts 52 weeks a year you ought not to be poor in America. That is what this is about. The last time we had a debate on the minimum wage the Senator from Massachusetts just insisted that the Senate would address this issue. Does the Senator intend to make this such a precise priority for his work that one way or another all Senators are going to be voting on this? Are we going to have it on the floor of the Senate? Are we going to have the debate? Are we going to have a vote on it so all Senators can be held accountable to working families, or not?

Mr. KENNEDY. Absolutely, Senator. We will vote on this issue, and the earlier the better as far as I am concerned, so that minimum wage earners can

continue the progress that they have made during the last 2 years. We will vote on this measure. I think that those who are opposed to it will give the Senate the opportunity to vote on it—at least I certainly hope they will. But the Senator is quite correct. We will vote on it one way or the other, and I think we take to heart that Congressman GEPHARDT, Congressman BONIOR and others have an identical bill. They are strongly committed. As Senators remember, there is a more complicated rule process over in the House of Representatives. But there is no reason in the world that we in the Senate cannot have an opportunity to vote on that measure and attach it to legislation and send it over to the House. We will do that and continue to do it until we are successful.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I am an original cosponsor. I am pleased to hear that because that is part of what I am here for as a Senator.

Let me ask the Senator from Massachusetts one final question. We don't just look at polls. But does the Senator have, in terms of what people in the country have been saying about raising the minimum wage 50 cents a year over the next 3 years—and we index it after that—is there broad public support that is a matter of simple elementary judgment?

Mr. KENNEDY. The Senator is correct. It is interesting that studies from this month show even greater support for the increase than we saw when we began this debate in the last Congress. Most Americans understand that we have had this extraordinary prosperity for millions of Americans over the period of the last 6 years. Most Americans understand that it has been working families who have made a difference. Those families include minimum wage earners—teachers' aides, who work in classrooms; health care aides, who work in nursing homes; and people who clean office buildings in communities across the country. Those men and women work hard, and they take pride in their work. Many of them have children, and we all know how hard it is to try to raise a family on $5.15 an hour. All those workers ask is to be treated fairly.

One of the most startling developments in the last few years is the number of working families who are using soup kitchens, food pantries and homeless shelters in cities across the country. The U.S. Conference of Mayors released a study showing that in 1996, 38% of those seeking emergency food aid are working—not unemployed. This is up from 23% in 1994. And, officials in two-thirds of the cities cited low wages as a primary reason for hunger. I don't know whether the Senator has this problem in rural communities in his region of the Nation. But in urban areas, almost 40 percent of those seeking emergency food aid are working, and they still can't make it.

All we are saying is that if you are working you shouldn't have to go to a soup kitchen. When you are working, you shouldn't have to bring your children to a soup kitchen in order to be fed. The minimum wage is designed to prevent such problems. It has been a part of the fabric of our society since the late 1930's, and it has been something which has had bipartisan support in the past. We are hopeful that it will have bipartisan support this time. Ultimately we will have it. But it had bipartisan support under President Bush, and President Nixon supported the increase as well. And Republicans in this body have supported it, too.

Many of our colleagues are constantly talking about the importance of rewarding work in our society. But when you have people who are able-bodied, who want to work, and who have jobs—there is something wrong if they can't make it on their own. There is something wrong if we do not try to address that problem.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I have one final question.

The people who contribute don't have a lot. They are not the heavy hitters. They are not the ones always here in Washington to lobby us.

How does the Senator think we could win this fight?

Mr. KENNEDY. The Senator makes a good point because the organizations, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the National Restaurant Association and others are out there already trying to discourage people from supporting this program. We will have a chance to deal with their arguments when we see what has actually happened in terms of the expansion of the restaurant industry and employment among restaurant workers. The Senator is no less interested in expanded employment or adequate income for restaurant workers than I am, and they still have done better with our modest increases in the past, and they will in the future.

I want to ask if the Senator will agree with me on one other proposition. We will hear during the debate that at least a quarter of these are teenagers who are making the minimum wage. In my State, tuition at the University of Massachusetts in Boston costs $4297. These students are still 18 and 19 years old. They are teenagers, and many of them are working. These students need the money.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, it is my time. I ask unanimous consent to have 4 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Many of their parents never went to college. These are teenagers. These students are trying to earn enough to buy their books and maybe attend an athletic event once in a while or be able to pay in order to rent athletic equipment. These students—and yes, they are teenagers—are working long and hard, and they deserve the increase, too.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the Senator asked about Minnesota. Just two final points.

One, I was speaking on the floor earlier and I said that I think most families are focused on how you earn a decent living and how you give your children the care you know they need and deserve. I think the minimum wage bill is an important step in that direction along with whatever we can do on affordable child care and health care. That is the key to family income in this country.

I spoke earlier about the record of inequality. Secretary Reich had a very important piece in the New York Times about it. But now we see, Mr. President, a merger with education because, as a matter of fact, I say to my colleagues and my friend from Massachusetts what I find when I travel around Minnesota—and I was a college teacher for 20 years—is that many students are taking 6 years to graduate and not 4 years because now students are working on the average of 25 or 30 hours a week at two minimum-wage jobs.

So we now are talking about a piece of legislation that speaks to the issue of how families can have more income and also how students can afford their higher education. Many of these students are 18 and 19. But let's not trivialize the teen part. They are young women and young men who are working hard to be able to go to school. You had better believe that this minimum wage bill is really of critical importance to these young people as to whether or not they are going to be able to complete their education and do well financially.

So the Senator is absolutely correct. There is the strongest correlation to education and affordable education which I think all of us agree is an absolutely crucial issue.

Mr. President, today I am co-sponsoring a bill introduced by my colleague and friend Senator TED KENNEDY, cosponsored by a number of others, a measure which I consider to be one of the most important items we can pass and enact this year—the "American Family Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1998." Our bill would increase the minimum wage by 50 cents a year during each of the next three years. After that, it would index further increases in the minimum wage to increases in the cost of living.

This 3-year increase of $1.50—raising the federal minimum wage to $6.65/hour by September 1 of the year 2000, and pegging it to inflation in succeeding years—is the most immediate and practical step we can take to deliver to American working families a message of economic justice and principle. The message is this: if you work hard and

play by the rules in America, you should not live in poverty. Unfortunately, that is not necessarily the case today for many working Americans with families. We need to address that problem.

Full time work at minimum wage generates an income of approximately $10,700 a year. That's $2,600 below the poverty line for a family of three in this country. Minimum wage is not a living wage in America today. Even after the most recent increase, the federal minimum wage is worth far less in real dollars than it was in the 1960s and 1970s.

Remember, the minimum wage disproportionately affects women. Sixty percent of those earning the minimum wage are women. Teachers' aides, child care providers, service-sector employees—some of the hardest working people in America, performing crucial tasks. Many of these women are single heads of households with child. One of the quickest ways we as a Congress could take a step toward real gender equity with regard to pay would be to pass an increase in the minimum wage and send it to the President. I am sure he will sign it. That would immediately improve the economic situation of millions of working women, many with families.

Increasing the minimum wage will benefit those who need it most in America—adults, women, working families. Seventy-five percent of those currently receiving minimum wage workers are adults; 60 percent are women; 50 percent work more than 35 hours a week; 82 percent work at least 20 hours a week.

Look at a few numbers which tell a story.

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities recently released a report showing that income inequality grew in 48 of 50 states since the late 1970s. The decline in real incomes of the poorest one-fifth of families with children in America averaged 21 percent, or $2,500.

Since 1968, the stock market, adjusted for inflation, grew by 115 percent while the purchasing power of the minimum wage declined by 30 percent.

To reflect the purchasing power it maintained in 1968, today's minimum wage would have to be at $7.33/hour, not $5.15. So even a carefully charted increase to $6.65/hour will not make up the entire difference, but it will put us back on a road to responsibly representing our constituents.

For nearly the last two decades, the bottom 20 percent of income earners in this country haven't experienced growth like most Americans. Instead, they have lost 9 percent in real family income growth, while the top 20 percent have gained more than 26 percent.

Our bill is about justice. In recent weeks and months, I have traveled around this country: East and South Central Los Angeles, Baltimore, Chicago, the Mississippi Delta, Appalachia, as well as in my home state of Minnesota. I have repeatedly seen the struggles of hard working, dedicated people who want to improve their lives, but they can't find jobs that will pay them a livable wage.

Now increasing the minimum wage will not compromise the economy and it will not harm the falling unemployment rate. Consider that in September 1996, just one month prior to the minimum wage increase from $4.25 to $4.75, the national unemployment rate was at 5.2 percent. By December 1997, two months after the second annual increase to $5.15, the U.S. unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent. And retail trade jobs, where a disproportionate amount of low wage workers are employed, increased slightly. Job opportunities in this country are not compromised by this legislation. In fact, the very importance and value of job opportunities to all Americans is exactly what is enforced by this legislation.

Today's economy continues to perform well. Yet the minimum wage—part of that same economy—has progressively fallen back. In 1996, we started to pave the right path to justice by increasing the minimum wage, but more must be done.

So I stand in support as the first cosponsor of this bill and urge Democrats and Republicans alike to support Senator KENNEDY's initiative and to support the American workforce by passing the Family Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1998. Thank you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask for 2 final minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this chart here illustrates very clearly the purchasing power of the minimum wage since 1959. All of these figures are in 1997 dollars, adjusted for inflation. In 1968 the real value of the minimum wage was $7.33. In 1995 it was down to $4.32 an hour. In the 1996 legislation, we added two additional steps. On September 1, 1997, the second step took effect, raising the minimum wage's value to $5.15 an hour. If we do nothing, by the year 2000, it will be $4.66 an hour. Our legislation proposes that it go up to $6.18, in three steps. Again, this is the what the minimum wage will buy in 1997 dollars, if our legislation becomes law. Even that increase will leave minimum wage earners below where they were in the 1960s and 1970s. The legislation is a very modest step forward, and I believe that working families have earned it.

I thank the Chair. I ask unanimous consent that the two articles that I mentioned be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ECONOMISTS ALTER MINIMUM-WAGE VIEW—NEW DATA SHOW SMALL INCREASE DOESN'T COST JOBS

(By David Wessel)

WASHINGTON.—Revisiting their own controversial research, a pair of prominent economists concluded that better data support their original assertion: Raising the minimum wage moderately doesn't cost jobs.

In the new work, David Card of the University of California at Berkeley and Alan Krueger of Princeton University used reports filed by employers and collated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Their earlier work, an influential element in Democrats' successful campaign to lift the minimum wage, relied on a telephone survey of employers that their critics attacked.

With the new data, the economists looked at fast-food employment in New Jersey and Pennsylvania at two key points: first, after an 80-cent-an-hour increase in New Jersey's minimum wage in April 1992 that didn't affect workers in Pennsylvania and, second, after an October 1996 50-cent increase in the federal minimum wage to $4.75. The federal increase only affected Pennsylvania because New Jersey's minimum wage was above the federal level.

LITTLE OR NO EFFECT

"The New Jersey (1992) minimum wage increase had either no effect, or a small positive effect, on fast-food industry employment in New Jersey vis-a-vis eastern Pennsylvania," the economists conclude. Between February and November 1992, fast-food employment grew by 3% in New Jersey but fell by between 1% and 3% in eastern Pennsylvania. What's more, after the October 1996 wage boost that affected only Pennsylvania, fast-food employment rose more sharply in that state than New Jersey. Between December 1995 and December 1996, fast-food employment grew by 11% in eastern Pennsylvania counties and by 2% in New Jersey.

The argument by Mr. Card and Mr. Krueger, a former chief economist in the Clinton Labor Department, challenged the conventional wisdom among mainstream economists that raising the price of workers' labor meant employers would buy less of it. The Clinton administration embraced it. House Speaker Newt Gingrich derided it as "spurious" and House Majority Leader Richard Armey, an economist, called it "counterintuitive." Several big-name economists dismissed it.

The details of the analysis and data drew fire first from an employers' group, the Employment Policy Institute, that gathered data of its own to refute it. Later, economists David Neumark of Michigan State University and William Wascher of the Federal Reserve Board supplemented EPI's data with data of their own and argued that fast-food payrolls did what economic textbooks predicted; grew more slowly in New Jersey than in Pennsylvania after the 1992 New Jersey wage increase.

REMAINS UNPERSUADED

Mr. Wascher isn't persuaded by the new data. "We never found very strong negative effects of the minimum wage on fast-food establishments," he said yesterday. "We speculated these franchise agreements are very restrictive and that the bigger effects might be at mom-and-pop establishments." He said BLS data for all eating and drinking establishments, not just fast-food outlets, show that payrolls in New Jersey generally rise more than those in Pennsylvania between February and November, but that the difference was smaller in 1992 when the New

Jersey minimum wage was raised than in 1991 or 1993.

The new Card-Krueger work, to be published shortly as a working paper by Princeton, hasn't been widely circulated yet among their critics. The authors acknowledge that their data don't tell whether employers facing higher minimum wages reduce the average hours per worker; the figures only count how many people were employed.

Despite assertions from employer groups and many mainstream economists that lifting the minimum wage would reduce the number of jobs available to young and unskilled workers and increase unemployment, the recent strength of the economy has pushed the jobless rate down. Retailers and other employers of low-wage workers are complaining more about labor shortages than wage increases.

The federal minimum wage was lifted to $5.15 an hour on Sept. 1, 1997.

CHICKEN FEED: MINIMUM WAGE IS UP, BUT A FAST-FOOD CHAIN NOTICES LITTLE IMPACT—ECONOMIC BOOM LIFTS PROFIT; FIRM'S MAIN PROBLEM IS HIRING, RETAINING PEOPLE—PRESSURES ON JOB ARE RISING

(By Bernard Wysocki Jr.)

FALLS CHURCH, VA.—The minimum wage was a hot issue 18 months ago, pitting business against labor, Republicans against Democrats.

In April 1996, David Rosenstein, a fast-food entrepreneur, staunchly opposed a proposed two-step rise to $5.15 an hour as "a bad idea." The middle managers at his 13 Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits restaurants didn't know how they would cope.

How times have changed.

Today, despite the now-higher minimum wage, Mr. Rosenstein's restaurants are prospering. Operating profits are up 11% from last year on a 10% rise in sales, which are running at a $14 million annual clip. He recently raised prices. He has opened a new store. And in a sign of boom times, he knocked out a wall and doubled the size of his spacious office.

"The economy is good. Business is good," says the 49-year-old Mr. Rosenstein, whose restaurants are franchisees of Atlanta-based AFC Enterprises. What about that minimum-wage increase? "I think we saw it in more dire terms than it worked out," he says.

FEW PROTESTS

Indeed, the minimum-wage increase has turned into one of the nonevents of 1997, thanks mostly to the economy's continuing strength. Low-wage Americans—nearly 10 million workers, by some estimates—got a raise. But amid the current prosperity, hardly anybody noticed. So, when the second step, a 40-cent-an-hour raise, kicked in seven weeks ago, on Sept. 1, few cheered, but even fewer protested.

Critics had argued that higher wages would squeeze profits because employers, beset by competitors, couldn't raise prices. Nationwide, it is hard to generalize about that. But Mr. Rosenstein recently raised nearly every price on his menu—biscuits went up 20% and the average item 5%—with hardly a peep from customers. "I'm surprised, very surprised," says Kenneth Hahn, the chain's director of operations.

Others had warned that raising the minimum wage would create inflated pay demands by those making slightly above-minimum wages. Not here. Work crews at Mr. Rosenstein's Virginia stores were averaging $5.54 an hour in 1996 and get only $5.60 today—a raise of 1%.

And although some academics say higher wages draw better-skilled teenagers out of school and into the workplace, displacing lower-skilled people, the Popeyes managers see nothing of the kind. If anything, their talent pool is weakening, drained by the booming economy.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Even though Mr. Rosenstein's worst fears weren't realized, lots of other things have happened in the past 18 months.

A tour of these Popeyes stores and conversations with the fry cooks and biscuit makers, the store supervisors and managers indicate that while the minimum-wage issue has retreated to the back burner of American politics, the big issues now are, in a sense, the collateral damage of the economic boom; intensified competition, a scarcity of good workers, high staff turnover and job burnout.

The wage increase itself has had major impact at only one outlet, at the Popeyes store on Rhode Island Avenue in the District of Columbia. There, the local hourly minimum is set at $1 over the federal minimum, and on Sept. 1, the district's minimum went to $6.15. Managers have cut back hours and piled more work on employees. Mr. Rosenstein says the operating profits at this one outlet fell to $34,000 for the 12 months ended Aug. 31 from $46,000 a year earlier.

ESCAPING TO MARYLAND

And so, when his Metropolitan Restaurant Management Co. looked for expansion sites in and around Washington, he went across the line into Maryland and opened there, largely to escape the $6.15 wage.

As several U.S. cities propose a so-called living wage, with minimums higher than the federal one, opponents such as the employer-backed Employment Policies Institute in Washington argue that low-wage employers will shun higher-wage locales. There may be something to that, as shown by Mr. Rosenstein's unwillingness to open another store in the high-wage district.

The really gut issue facing his company, however, is intensified competition. That may seem ironic: Its financial results are good, and the price increases have held. But on the darker side, the managers and the workers alike say that, on a day-to-day operating basis, the competitive environment has become tougher.

Back in the spring of 1996, Mohammed Isah, who manages the Popeyes store on City Line Avenue in West Philadelphia, fretted about the impending wage increase and wondered where the extra productivity he would need would come from. He vowed to scale back part-timers' hours and increase their workloads.

And he did. Sitting at one of his tables, Mr. Isah, once a bank manager in his native Nigeria, nods in the direction of a middle-age employee sweeping the floor. When the wage went up on Sept. 1 he halved her hours. Meantime, full-timers have taken up that slack. Nowadays, one person sets up the registers, then starts the biscuits, then does assorted odd tasks before business picks up at lunch time. Mr. Isah freely concedes that people are working twice as hard for their modest raise.

Yet the increased minimum wage isn't what is really driving Mr. Isah's hardball productivity drive. A few months ago, a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet opened just a half-mile down City Line Avenue. Even the Popeyes managers agree that it's quite a site for a fast-food place: a renovated old home with fireplaces, walls sconces and a winding staircase.

When Kentucky Fried Chicken opened, Mr. Isah's sales declined. Although some business has now returned, his sales are running 2% below 1996 levels, and his operating profit is down 10%. His bosses say he is a good, hard-working manager, but the harsh business environment is putting pressure on him and his staff. "You have people doing two or three people's jobs. Eventually, it gets to them," he says, and they are burning out from overwork. Turnover is rising as good people search for jobs elsewhere. Looking ahead, he sees more problems. He even has a written list of his concerns: Morale will drop. Quality of work will fall. Dependability will wane. Absenteeism will rise.

RISK OF VICIOUS CIRCLE

The Popeyes managers know that trimming staff can be self-defeating, and they haven't eliminated any full-time positions in the past 18 months. If hours drop, service declines, and sales and profit can suffer. A vicious circle can develop.

Mr. Rosenstein's New Castle, Del., outlet along busy Route 13 is gripped by more competition—not only for business but also for talent. The store manager there left the company earlier this year to run a Boston Market outlet. The Popeyes chain, which pays its store managers $30,000 to $45,000 a year, couldn't match the Boston Market pay, Frank Williams, the district manager, says. Outer managers had to pitch in until a replacement was found.

As the store suffered from patchwork management, business faltered. In addition, crew hours were cut back, and cleanliness suffered. That's the sort of thing that really rankles Mr. Williams, and, on a recent day, he was sitting in the New Castle restaurant, drawing up a long list of tasks for his store manager.

Popeyes managers are in a bind. They can push their people only so far, especially in an economy with so many job opportunities. They need to keep their employees. In the more prosperous locations, such as the Popeyes in Rockville, Md., an acute labor shortage keeps pushing up the work crews' pay. In April 1996, it averaged $6.01 an hour; today, it averages $6.42 Managers there say the increase has nothing to do with federal law and everything to do with supply and demand.

"My senior fry cook, he makes $8.75 an hour," says Mohsen Eghtesadi, district manager for Metropolitan's two Maryland restaurants. He waves his hand toward the Rockville Pike, a busy commercial strip. "Look at all these sit-down restaurants opening up. They can pay $10 an hour, $12 an hour. For us to keep good employees, we really have to increase their pay."

"It's a chicken war," Mr. Eghtesadi says. He adds, with a wry smile, "And we are chicken warriors."

MUCH COMPETITION FOR STAFF

His problems are just a tiny example of the sharper competition for talent. With much of the economy thriving, the national unemployment rate has dropped below 5%. In the fast-food business, expansion-minded chains need experienced supervisors and managers. Even good fry cooks, earning $8 an hour or so, are constantly vulnerable to raids by other chains.

Mr. Hahn, the director of operations, spends far more time these days weeding out the losers among job candidates. The chain does extensive background checks on all supervisors and puts managerial candidates through a series of psychological pencil-and-paper tests. The Popeyes bosses try to find candidates whose profiles match those of

their successful store managers. Matchups have become rare.

At entry-level employment, more applicants are young women looking for jobs as part of the welfare-to-work movement. With fast-food employers inundated by welfare recipients, the minimum-wage issue takes a back seat to other concerns.

Seven weeks ago, Sharie Ross got a raise to $5.15 an hour, serving up fast food at the New Castle outlet, up from the $5-an-hour minimum in Delaware. She hardly noticed because, as a welfare-to-work employee, her main worry is the gradual loss of her welfare benefits.

"I still get food stamps; that's $98 a month," says Ms. Ross, 20. But when she started work five months ago, the state of Delaware picked up the cost of day care for her two children. To her, keeping that $200-a-month subsidy is more important than a few cents an hour in extra pay.

Yet a booming economy can mask all sorts of operating difficulties. That is true in many businesses, and it is true at Mr. Rosenstein's fried-chicken empire. One rule of thumb: If sales growth continues, all the other problems are manageable. In the past 18 months, sales at many of Mr. Rosenstein's stores have grown at double digits—and have surprised him. "You budget for a 2% or 3% rise. To budget for a 10% rise is, well, irresponsible," he says.

But in his Prince William County, Va., stores, sales are booming. He pulls out his sales projections—$3,751,000 this year, up more than 10%. His hourly wage costs are up 7%, mostly because hours worked are up 6%. His projected 1997 profit at these stores is $270,000, up from $234,000 last year.

Mr. Rosenstein thinks his company will continue to be prosperous if the economy keeps booming. But, he adds, "If there's a downturn, it's going to be nasty."

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1573

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE.

(a) WAGE.—Paragraph (1) of section 6(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, not less than—

"(A) $5.65 an hour during the year beginning on September 1, 1998;

"(B) $6.15 an hour during the year beginning on September 1, 1999;

"(C) $6.65 an hour during the year beginning on September 1, 2000; and

"(D) beginning on September 1, 2001, $6.65 an hour, as adjusted by the Secretary on each September 1 to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers during the most recent 12-month period for which data are available.".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect on September 1, 1998.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1574. A bill to prohibit the cloning of humans; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to prohibit the cloning of humans. This act would further extend last year's efforts by last year's law which banned federal funding of human cloning. Under my bill, there would be an outright ban on human cloning, whether publicly or privately funded.

The scientific term for human cloning is "human somatic cell nuclear transfer." That is what my bill would ban. My bill would not undermine or stifle scientific research in the area of genetics that promises to combat and cure disease in humans. This research includes the cloning of animals and human cells other than embryo cells.

I am not a scientist and do not wish to insert myself in the process of scientific research and advances, from which we all benefit. However, when science crosses over the boundary of what is ethically and morally appropriate research, I have an obligation to respond on behalf of myself and my constituents. Congress—and its lawmaking authority—is the only mechanism available to address the issue of human cloning and assert the will of the American people that it not go forward.

We have a responsibility to protect the moral and ethical foundation upon which this country was built. In recognizing that responsibility, both the Senate and House committees with jurisdiction have carefully looked at the implications of moving forward with legislation to ban human cloning. They have tapped the experts in the science of genetics and have confirmed what we as laymen believe—the cloning of humans is morally unacceptable and scientifically dangerous.

During a March 12, 1997, House Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Technology hearing, the National Bioethics Advisory Commission testified that there is sufficient cause to warrant legislation because a developing child would be subject to undue harm as a result of current unscientifically plausible technology. In summarizing the Commission's report before the Subcommittee, its Chairman, Dr. Harold T. Shapiro, noted that this deficiency in the technology was coupled with far-reaching concern that human cloning is not deemed morally acceptable by society as a whole.

A final hearing was held July 22, 1997, during which Dr. Hessell Bouma, a professor of biology, said it best. The transcript states that "he stressed the uniqueness, freedom, and respect intrinsic to human life. Cloning, Dr. Bouma testified, is in direct violation of all three, and therefore should be prohibited by law."

Mr. President, I don't think any of us can argue with that.

I would like to urge my colleagues to take swift action and impose a ban on human cloning. We are all aware of the activities in Chicago to move forward with a human cloning experiment, so time is of the essence. I would ask that we work together over the coming weeks to pass a bill to prevent this and future efforts to wrongly clone humans.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1574

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Human Cloning Prohibition Act".

SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that the Federal Government has a moral obligation to the nation to prohibit the cloning of humans.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON HUMAN CLONING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person to—

(1) clone a human being; or

(2) conduct research for the purpose of cloning a human being or otherwise creating a human embryo.

(b) FEDERAL FUNDS.—No Federal funds may be obligated or expended to knowingly conduct or support any project of research the purpose of which is to clone a human being or otherwise create a human embryo.

(c) DEFINITION.—As used in subsection (a), the terms "clone" and "cloning" mean the practice of creating or attempting to create a human being by transferring the nucleus from a human cell from whatever source into a human egg cell from which the nucleus has been removed for the purpose of, or to implant, the resulting product to initiate a pregnancy that could result in the birth of a human being.

SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Whoever is found to be in violation of section 2 shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 for each such violation.

(b) INELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—A individual found to be in violation of section 2 shall not be eligible to receive any Federal funding for research regardless of the type of research being conducted for a period of 5-years after such violation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 322

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, A bill to amend the Agricultural market Transition Act to repeal the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact provision.

S. 323

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 323, A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States.

S. 412

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BUMPERS), and the Senator

from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 412, A bill to provide for a national standard to prohibit the operation of motor vehicles by intoxicated individuals.

S. 497

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to repeal the provisions of the Acts that require employees to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain small businesses from the mandatory electronic fund transfer system.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, A bill to permit an individual to be treated by a health care practitioner with any method of medical treatment such individual requests, and for other purposes.

S. 659

At the request of Mr. GLENN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 659, A bill to amend the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 to provide for implementation of recommendations of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service contained in the Great Lakes Fishery Restoration Study Report.

S. 769

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, A bill to amend the provisions of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 to expand the public's right to know about toxic chemical use and release, to promote pollution prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, A bill to offer small businesses certain protections from litigation excesses.

S. 887

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 887, A bill to establish in the National Service the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program, and for other purposes.

S. 943

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 943, A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the application of the Act popularly known as the "Death on the High Seas Act" to aviation accidents.

S. 1021

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1021, A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to preference eligibles applying for certain positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1081, A bill to enhance the rights and protections for victims of crime.

S. 1104

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1104, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make corrections in maps relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to take into account newly developed renewable energy-based fuels and to equalize alternative fuel vehicle acquisition incentives to increase the flexibility of controlled fleet owners and operators, and for other purposes.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. ASCHCROFT, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, A bill to prohibit spending Federal education funds on national testing.

S. 1222

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1222, A bill to catalyze restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient financing of projects and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1237

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1237, A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to further improve the safety and health of working environments, and for other purposes.

S. 1244

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1244, A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to protect certain charitable contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 1260

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1260, A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes.

S. 1293

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1293, A bill to improve the performance outcomes of the child support enforcement program in order to increase the financial stability and well-being of children and families.

S. 1307

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 with respect to rules governing litigation contesting termination or reduction of retiree health benefits and to extend continuation coverage to retirees and their dependents.

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1311, A bill to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles.

S. 1320

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BUMPERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1320, A bill to provide a scientific basis for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assess the nature of the association between illnesses and exposure to toxic agents and environmental or other wartime hazards as a result of service in the Persian Gulf during the Persian Gulf War for purposes of determining a service connection relating to such illnesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1326

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1326, A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for medicaid coverage of all certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists services.

S. 1334

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from

Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1334, A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a demonstration project to evaluate the feasibility of using the Federal Employees Health Benefits program to ensure the availability of adequate health care for Medicare-eligible beneficiaries under the military health care system.

At the request of Mr. FAIRCLOTH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1334, supra.

S. 1360

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), and the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1360, A bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to clarify and improve the requirements for the development of an automated entry-exit control system, to enhance land border control and enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, A bill to amend section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and the National Security Act of 1947 to require disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act regarding certain persons, disclose Nazi war criminal records without impairing any investigation or prosecution conducted by the Department of Justice or certain intelligence matters, and for other purposes.

S. 1482

At the request of Mr. COATS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1482, A bill to amend section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a prohibition on commercial distribution on the World Wide Web of material that is harmful to minors, and for other purposes.

S. 1554

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1554, A bill to provide for relief from excessive punitive damage awards in cases involving primarily financial loss by establishing rules for proportionality between the amount of punitive damages and the amount of economic loss.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Republic of China should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SENATE RESOLUTION 164—INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 164

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

SENATE RESOLUTION 165—INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 165

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

SENATE RESOLUTION—166—RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DENVER BRONCOS IN WINNING SUPER BOWL XXXII

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. ALLARD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 166

Whereas on August 14, 1959, a passion was born in the heart of the Rocky Mountain Region that brought such memories as "Orange Crush," "The Drive," "The Fumble," "The Three Amigos," and 4 previous Super Bowl appearances;

Whereas the fans of the Denver Broncos are recognized throughout the National Football League (referred to in this resolution as the "NFL") for their unconditional allegiance to the team, contributing to 229 consecutive sold-out stadium home games;

Whereas the Denver Broncos' organization assembled a championship caliber coaching staff who created a championship caliber team;

Whereas the Denver Broncos played in 4 previous Super Bowls without winning, represented the American Football Conference in Super Bowl XXXII which had not won a Super Bowl in 13 years, and was considered the underdog in the game; and

Whereas after almost 40 years, the Denver Broncos became champions of the NFL with a victory in Super Bowl XXXII over the defending national champions and perennial contenders, the Packers from Green Bay, Wisconsin: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the outstanding achievement of the Denver Broncos in winning Super Bowl XXXII on January 25, 1998; and

(2) congratulates the players, staff, and fans of the Denver Broncos for a terrific football season and a thrilling victory in Super Bowl XXXII.

SENATE RESOLUTION 167—RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF JOHN ELWAY IN THE VICTORY OF THE DENVER BRONCOS IN SUPER BOWL XXXII

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. ALLARD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 167

Whereas since becoming quarterback for the Denver Broncos in 1983, John Elway has been involved in some of the most striking comeback victories in the history of the National Football League (referred to in this resolution as the "NFL");

Whereas John Elway has been a Pro Bowl quarterback, was named NFL Most Valuable Player in 1987 and the American Football Conference's Most Valuable Player in 1993, holds numerous NFL passing records, and is the all-time winningest quarterback in the history of the NFL;

Whereas John Elway's leadership, dedication, and perseverance symbolizes excellence in these qualities for the entire Nation and represents these qualities for America to the world; and

Whereas John Elway, an exceptional athlete, has sustained a high level of personal competitiveness and has finally led his team to the honor of a Super Bowl championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the outstanding achievement of the Denver Broncos' quarterback, John Elway; and

(2) congratulates John Elway as the winning quarterback of Super Bowl XXXII.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, tonight the President of the United States will outline some important issues for our consideration during the second half of this Congress, and, as I have sat here for the last 40 minutes listening to some of my colleagues, they have spoken with great emphasis on the importance of the points on which they are going to agree and disagree with him. But today I rise, with my friend Senator ALLARD, to submit two resolutions that are on a happier note. These resolutions are to honor the outstanding achievement of the Denver Broncos in their winning of Super Bowl XXXII.

The first resolution recognizes the entire Broncos organization and the other honors John Elway, the team's veteran leader, who happens to be a personal friend of both Senator ALLARD and myself. For the first time in 13 years, an AFC team has won the Super Bowl, and it is only the second time a wild-card team has won since 1980. Indeed, they were the underdog in the betting from Las Vegas to Atlantic City and all points in between.

As those football fans among us might know, the Broncos have glimpsed victory on four prior occasions, but had victory elude them each time. All of that changed this past Sunday. With an inspiring team effort, they beat the odds and the legendary Green Bay Packers, a team as talented and formidable as any of the championship Packer teams before it.

So sure were some people that the Broncos would lose, one electric appliance merchant in Farmington, NM, and Durango, CO, offered unlimited free appliances to customers on the day before the game if the Broncos won. Under the agreement, the customers would have only had to pay if the Broncos lost. Lucky for him, he had the foresight to take out a $300,000 insurance policy, which barely covered his losses to jubilant customers as the unexpected happened and they showed up yesterday at both of his stores to collect on their free appliances.

In a brilliant athletic and strategic contest, both the Denver Broncos and the Green Bay Packers reflected qualities that we all value and admire: hard work, teamwork, preparation, dedication, and sportsmanship above all things. For that, and a beautiful display of terrific physical talent, both teams must be commended and applauded.

I want to highlight the Denver team, of course, because I am from Colorado and because they displayed a resilience and perseverance in overcoming four previous Super Bowl losses, qualities which any one of us must cheer who, in any type of endeavor, has ever tried and failed.

The Denver team succeeded with the leadership of John Elway, the MVP performance of Terrell Davis, a skilled offensive line that proved confidence and heart can compete with size, and a defense that proved as strong as it was fearless against a formidable offense.

Our second resolution specifically honors John Elway for his outstanding accomplishment in leading the Broncos to its fourth Super Bowl appearance and its first Super Bowl victory. In bringing his team a national championship, Mr. Elway has given us lessons in the game of football for years to come, and Sunday he gave us a new lesson in perseverance, dedication and true sportsmanship. He is certainly a hero.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank the senior Senator from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. President, as a fifth generation Coloradan who has rooted for the Broncos since they were first organized in the early 1960's, I want to give my Mile High Salute! A Super Bowl victory has been a long time coming for Broncos fans. Broncos fans have searched for an identity theme from "Orange Crush" in honor of one of their best defensive teams to "the Mile High Salute." Many of the themes were lost in time through legal hassles or disappointing seasons. But "the Mile High Salute" is here to stay, etched in history with a Super Bowl Victory!

Rules limiting the celebration of success on the football field have made it difficult for players and coaches to express their emotions. "The Mile High Salute" has become the Broncos symbol of success on the field. I do not believe there is a more honorable and appropriate way of celebrating in the game of football. The salute is honorable. Denver is the Mile High City. The Mile High Salute has come to mean more than success and honor with the Super Bowl Victory. It has come to mean dedication, hard work, exceeding peoples' expectations, team work and unity, and giving the spirit of competition its just reward. It is in this context that I give my Mile High Salute.

I want to salute the Green Bay Packers organization. They are a great organization and Wisconsin can be proud of them. They made this Super Bowl one of the best ever. They have a legacy in football that is honored throughout America. I know both my colleagues in the Senate from Wisconsin are avid supporters.

My good friend Congressman SCOTT KLUG, who I joined in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1991, got carried away with his enthusiasm for his Green Bay Packers and placed a wager with me. Instead of me providing him with Colorado beef he has the honor of bestowing on me some great Wisconsin cheese. SCOTT is retiring and I will miss him in the Congress because he has done such a great job in bringing about true reform. America is better because of his leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I extend a Mile High Salute to the offensive and defensive Broncos linemen. They truly exemplify the team spirit and exceeded expectations with the smallest line in the National Football League. Known as the "Orange Hush," these are men that have an oath of silence, who routinely arrive an hour early for morning meetings so they can watch extra videotape together, who eat meals together, who dress together in the same locker room area, who study the Bible together, and who, most importantly, show up on game day together.

An obvious Mile High Salute goes to both quarterback John Elway and running back Terrell Davis. They recognized that they didn't do it alone even though they have become heroes of the game.

John Elway is topping off his marvelous career with a Super Bowl win! Many top NFL quarterbacks never have the opportunity to claim a Super Bowl victory. He will eventually be in the Football Hall of Fame. I know him personally and cannot think of anyone more deserving of such an honor. He is supported by a wonderful wife Janet and family.

Fifteen years ago few people in the Denver community could have guessed the impact this young quarterback from Stanford would have on the State of Colorado. Today, John Elway reigns as the king of the comeback and the winningest quarterback in NFL history. He is one of the most recognized figures in American sports. Aside from his considerable athletic accomplishments, Elway has proven himself time and again to be the heart and soul of his team. As important as Elway's role is in Colorado sports, he plays a greater role in the community. Over the years he has worked tirelessly for the charities of Colorado, and the Elway Foundation is responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations. I think that in the hearts and minds of all Broncos fans this one is indeed for John.

Terrell Davis returned to the San Diego area and his high school alma mater to demonstrate the can do attitude. I personally am amazed at his courage, work ethic, and commitment to winning for the Broncos team. His 157 yards rushing and record three touchdowns in a Super Bowl will be remembered. But this was only the culmination of his best season ever. Davis has grown from a 196th pick in 1995 draft to a Super Bowl MVP and 1,750 yard rusher in 15 regular season games. Davis will long be known by the nickname TD as he averaged one touchdown in every game he played in the 1997–1998 season.

I salute the entire Broncos staff, owners, and coaches. Mike Shanahan has done a great job and certainly is deserving of the honor as a winning Super Bowl coach. Coach Shanahan and his staff have done an incredible job of taking what was a 7–9 team in 1994 to a 12–4 team with the heart to persevere through one of the most difficult roads to the Super Bowl with victories in Kansas City and Pittsburgh. The team statistics speak for themselves, the Broncos offense was ranked number one in the League with 367 yards per game and the defense was the top rated unit in the AFC only allowing 292 yards per game. I congratulate Pat Bowlen because I know that good leadership starts at the top.

I want to recognize the general manager of the Broncos. John Beake is a good friend and has a great family. He does a great job of representing the Broncos organization. Both he and his wife Marcia need to be recognized for their fight to eliminate drug abuse. Just another example of how the Broncos organization has reached out into the community.

I give a Mile High Salute to the fans of the Broncos. They are the best. Many, like my wife Joan, were attending Bronco games when they were playing at the old University of Denver football stadium and wore vertically striped socks. Their enthusiasm has not waned over the years.

It is an honor for me to represent everyone in Colorado in the U.S. Senate. It is especially exciting to be here while winning Super Bowl XXXII. While I was interviewed last week about the President's scandals. I stated a number of times that people in Colorado have their priorities straight. They want their Broncos to win the Super Bowl and that's what they're talking about!

Joan and I only wish we could be in Colorado helping our friends and neighbors in giving the Broncos and their fans a Mile High Salute.

SENATE RESOLUTION 168—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, STATES, AND LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES SHOULD SPEND A GREATER PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL EDUCATION TAX DOLLARS IN OUR CHILDREN'S CLASSROOMS

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. MACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

S. Res. 168

Whereas the people of the United States know that effective teaching takes place when the people of the United States begin (1) helping children master basic academics, (2) engaging and involving parents, (3) creating safe and orderly classrooms, and (4) getting dollars to the classroom;

Whereas our Nation's children deserve an educational system which will provide opportunities to excel;

Whereas States and localities must spend a significant amount of Federal education tax dollars applying for and administering Federal education dollars;

Whereas several States have reported that although the States receive less than 10 percent of their education funding from the Federal Government, more than 50 percent of their paperwork is associated with those Federal dollars;

Whereas while it is unknown exactly what percentage of Federal education dollars reaches the classroom, a recent audit of New York City public schools found that only 43 percent of their local education budget reaches the classroom; further, it is thought that only 85 percent of funds administered by the Department of Education for elementary and secondary education reach the school district level; and even if 65 percent of Federal education funds reach the classroom, it still means that billions of dollars are not directly spent on children in the classroom;

Whereas American students are not performing up to their full academic potential, despite the more than 760 Federal education programs, which span 39 Federal agencies at the price of nearly $100,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas, according to the Digest of Education Statistics, in 1993 only $141,598,786,000 out of $265,285,370,000 spent on elementary and secondary education was spent on instruction;

Whereas, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 1994 only 52 percent of staff employed in public elementary and secondary school systems were teachers;

Whereas too much of our Federal education funding is spent on bureaucracy, and too little is spent on our Nation's youth;

Whereas getting 90 percent of Department of Education elementary and secondary education funds to the classroom could provide approximately $1,800 in additional funding per classroom across the United States;

Whereas more education funding should be put in the hands of someone in a child's classroom who knows the child's name;

Whereas President Clinton has stated: "We cannot ask the American people to spend more on education until we do a better job with the money we've got now.";

Whereas President Clinton and Vice President Gore agree that the reinventing of public education will not begin in Washington but in communities across the United States and that the people of the United States must ask fundamental questions about how our Nation's public school systems' dollars are spent; and

Whereas President Clinton and Vice President Gore agree that in an age of tight budgets, our Nation should be spending public funds on teachers and children, not on unnecessary overhead and bloated bureaucracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urges the Department of Education, States, and local educational agencies to work together to ensure that not less than 95 percent of all funds appropriated for the purpose of carrying out elementary and secondary education programs administered by the Department of Education is spent for our Nation's children in their classrooms.

SENATE RESOLUTION—169—TO DESIGNATE FEBRUARY 3, 1998 AS "FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY"

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. BOND, Mr. MOYHIHAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 169

Whereas February 3, 1998, is the 55th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army transport Dorchester, an event that resulted in the loss of nearly 700 lives in 1943 and for which witnesses have recounted in the Congressional Record the heroism of 4 chaplains of different faiths, Lieutenant George L. Fox, Methodist; Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lieutenant John P. Washington, Catholic; and Lieutenant Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed;

Whereas witnesses have verified that during the approximate 18 minutes the ship was sinking after being torpedoed off the coast of Greenland, the 4 chaplains went from soldier to soldier calming fears and handing out life jackets and guiding men to safety and when there were no more life jackets, they removed their own life jackets and gave them to others to save their lives and were last seen arm-in-arm in prayer on the hull of the ship;

Whereas many of the 230 men who survived owed their lives to these 4 chaplains, and witnesses among them recounted the unique ecumenical spirit and love for their fellow man these 4 demonstrated that were later illustrated in a popular postage stamp issued by the United States in 1948 with the title "Interfaith in Action";

Whereas Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution 90 in 1957 to honor these 4 chaplains and the men who died with them, and President Truman and President Eisenhower issued similar proclamations calling for national recognition and participation in memorial services throughout the land that have been observed annually by the American Legion on the first Sunday in February;

Whereas Congress undertook to create a special medal for valor given to the memory of the 4 chaplains in 1960 and never to be repeated; and

Whereas memorials to the chaplains' heroic sacrifice abound in many places throughout the country including the Heroes Window in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) requests the President of the United States to issue a proclamation designating February 3, 1998, as "Four Chaplains Day"; and

(2) invites the people of the United States, of all religions and creeds and in all communities, to observe this date with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and commemorations.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold a hearing entitled "Medicare Fraud Prevention: Improving The Medicare Enrollment Process."

This hearing will take place on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Timothy Shea of the Subcommittee staff at 224-3721.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place Tuesday, February 3, 1998 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1253, the Public Land Management Improvement Act of 1997.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Judy Brown or Mark Rey at (202) 224-6170.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider the nomination of Donald J. Barry to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior.

The hearing will take place Wednesday, February 4, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

For further information, please call Allyson Kennett at (202) 224-5070.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 1997

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, S. 1519, a bill to provide a 6-month extension of highway, highway safety, and transit programs pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, was introduced and passed the Senate on November 10, 1997. The bill was passed by the House on November 12, 1997, and sent to the President for approval.

Because the measure was considered and passed on the same day as its introduction, the Committee on Environment and Public Works was not referred S. 1519, and a report was not filed. Subsequent to the passage of the legislation, however, the Congressional Budget Office issued a cost estimate, as required under the Senate rules. Therefore, I ask that a letter from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, dated December 1, 1997, be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, December 1, 1997.

Hon. FRANKLIN D. RAINES,
Director, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. RAINES: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed estimate of the pay-as-you go effects of S. 1519, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 1997.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Clare Doherty and Kristen Layman, both of whom can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL,
Director.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE: PAY-AS-YOU-GO-ESTIMATE, DECEMBER 1, 1997

S. 1519: SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 1997, AS CLEARED BY THE CONGRESS ON NOVEMBER 12, 1997

S. 1519 would provide a temporary extension of highway and transit programs authorized under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). The bill would provide contract authority of approximately $8.7 billion for programs carried out by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Of that total, $15 million would be for the FHWA minimum allocation program, which is exempt from the obligation limitation that applies to the bulk of FHWA's spending. In addition to providing contract authority, S. 1519 would authorize the appropriation of $372 million for the Federal Transit Administration for the first half of fiscal year 1998.

The minimum allocation program is the only program reauthorized in S. 1519 that has outlays that are classified as direct spending. All other outlays from authorizations in S. 1519 would be discretionary because they either would result from discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 1998 or would be subject to obligation limitations included in the 1998 appropriation act for transportation (Public Law 105-66).

S. 1519 would provide $15.46 million for the minimum allocation program for the six-day period from January 26, 1998, through January 31, 1998. For the purposes of estimating the pay-as-you-go impact of the act, this amount has to be extrapolated through 2002, based on the spending authority provided in the legislation. This approach is required under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which stipulates that an expiring mandatory program with current-year outlays in excess of $50 million be assumed to continue at the program level in place when it is scheduled to expire.

The $15.46 million in contract authority for six days translates into an annualized level of $639 million for January 26 through the remainder of fiscal year 1998 and for each subsequent fiscal year. By comparison, the current CBO baseline for the minimum allocation program includes contract authority of $639 million for 1998, but assumes annual increases to reflect projected inflation for subsequent years. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting S. 1519 would produce pay-as-you-go savings of $62 million in outlays over the 1998-2002 period, relative to the current baseline.

CBO's estimate of S. 1519's impact on outlays from direct spending is summarized in the following table for fiscal years 1998-2007. For purposes of enforcing pay-as-you-go procedures, only the effects in the budget year and the succeeding four years are counted. Also, only direct spending outlays are subject to pay-as-you-go requirements; the discretionary outlays from contract authority subject to obligation limitations are not considered for pay-as-you-go purposes.

ESTIMATED EFFECTS OF S. 1519 ON DIRECT SPENDING AND RECEIPTS

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars									
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Changes in outlays	0	−2	−8	−19	−33	−47	−63	−80	−97	−115
Changes in receipts	Not applicable									

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Clare Doherty and Kristen Layman, both of whom can be reached at 226-2860. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.•

TRIBUTE TO DR. WALTER GAMEWELL "CURLY" WATSON

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the exemplary career and extraordinary life of one of South Carolina's most beloved citizens: Dr. Walter Gamewell "Curly" Watson.

Dr. Watson, who will turn 88 in February, was born in Trenton, South Carolina, on the same farm he owns today. He graduated from The Citadel college during the height of the Great Depression. Although he earned the highest grade point average in his class, he was—like so many of us during that time—unable to find work. So in order to earn money for medical school, he taught math and coached football at high schools in Edgefield, South Carolina, and Bainbridge, Georgia, for the following seven years.

Finally, in 1939, he was able to enter medical school; and in 1943, he graduated from the Medical College of Georgia. After interning and completing his residency at University Hospital in Augusta, Dr. Watson served two years as an Army physician in Korea and the Philippines.

Before shipping out, Dr. Watson married Audrey Bazemore, a University Hospital nurse whom he met during his residency. Today, the two remain devoted to one another.

In fact, it was only at Audrey's insistence that Walter agreed to allow University Hospital to bear his name. He is notorious for avoiding attention and eschewing praise. Indeed, Dr. Watson's life and career are marked by his humility.

Dr. Watson began his private practice 50 years ago, joining the practice established by Senator STROM THURMOND's late brother J. W. While delivering over 50 babies a month for most of the past 50 years, Watson also found time to serve his hospital, church, and community. He led Grace Methodist Church's efforts to build two new sanctuaries, as well as its relief mission for the victims of Hurricane Hugo. And for over 40 years, Watson has served as the team physician for North Augusta High School.

Walter Watson also has received numerous accolades from his peers in the medical profession. Among other honors, he was named Professor Emeritus

of obstetrics and gynecology at the Medical College of Georgia. And the hundreds of letters he has received over the years from friends, colleagues, and patients are testament to his unsurpassed bedside manner and deft human touch.

Perhaps greatest among Watson's accomplishments is his success as a family man. He raised five children, all of whom have grown up to be well-respected members of their community. All four of his daughters became nurses; they received their first training from their father.

Today, Mr. President, the University of Georgia Hospital names its Women's Center in Dr. Watson's honor. I can think of no more fitting tribute to this man who has given much to his community while asking nothing in return. At a time when many speak of the need to foster volunteerism, Dr. Walter Watson's life serves as a lesson in humility, faith, commitment, professionalism, and service. Beloved teacher, healer, father, and husband: Walter Watson is an inspiration to us all.•

BUILDING DEDICATION AT BAY COLLEGE

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise in honor of Bay College in Escanaba, Michigan. This innovative educational institution is excited to celebrate the dedication of its new University Center. The completion of this new building will provide many exciting opportunities for students and the college.

In addition to expanding higher education access to bachelor and master degree programs for area citizens, the Joseph L. Heriman University Center houses eight new computer classrooms/labs in its student Computing Center; a net of nine new classrooms which include the computer classrooms, three business classrooms, an interactive television (ITV) classroom and one mobile ITV for distance education. The Center also provides accommodations for industrial training and technology transfer, customized training for technical skills upgrade and professional development seminars and workshops.

The opening of this building will bring many benefits to the college and the local community. Again, I would like to congratulate Bay College and commend its administration, faculty and students on their efforts. Also, I would like to wish the college the brightest of futures as they enter this exciting period in their history.•

RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN L. SMITH

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, on February 27, 1998, the state of Illinois and our nation will lose a valuable public servant. After 23 years as the Director of the United States Small Business Administration's (SBA) Chicago District Office, John L. Smith is retiring. It is my honor to commend him on a distinguished career of service to our nation.

Mr. Smith began a 47-year public service career in 1951 with a 4 year stint in the United States Navy. Following his discharge, Mr. Smith attended the Robert Morris School in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he received a degree in Business Administration.

In 1967, Mr. Smith began working in the civil service with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration where he worked as a loan specialist in several assignments throughout the East Coast. Prior to that, Mr. Smith had been the Director of Financial Assistance for the Business and Job Development Corporation in Pittsburgh.

In 1973, Mr. Smith came to Chicago to serve as the Regional Administrator for the Commerce Department's Office of Minority Business Enterprise. In that position, Mr. Smith admirably directed activities in 10 states and managed over $5 million in grant and contract funds.

In 1975, Mr. Smith began his long tenure as Director of the SBA's Chicago District Office. Over the past 23 years, he has managed the Chicago Office and a smaller branch office in Springfield. Additionally, he has been responsible for overseeing both offices' SBA loans, management assistance, government contracting, and advocacy programs for small businesses across Illinois. On his watch, small businesses in Illinois have received several billion dollars worth of loans and federal contracts.

In addition to his professional successes, Mr. Smith and his wife have raised four adult children. John L. Smith has also worked to better his community and our nation through volunteering his time and abilities to organizations such as the American Heart Association, the Boy Scouts of America, the Kiwanis Club and the United Fund.

Without a doubt, the citizens and the economy of the state of Illinois have benefitted greatly from John L. Smith's able and dedicated leadership. He leaves behind a strong and proud record of accomplishment at the Small Business Administration, as well as a remarkable career of government service. I wish him good luck and God's speed in all of his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO DON TIBBETTS

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Tibbetts, "Dean of the New Hampshire State House Press Corps" who recently retired after 24 years of news reporting on national and state politics for the Union Leader and the New Hampshire Sunday News.

Don has witnessed many historical events over his career, from the thrill of the first in the nation presidential primary to the comings and goings of countless Governors. He has endured seemingly endless hearings and press conferences, yet has reported on each of them with style, substance, and integrity.

In a state where people take their politics very seriously, Don was able to give the people of New Hampshire their daily diet of important facts about the events, votes, meetings, and rulings that impact their lives. What is remarkable about Don in this time of editorial journalism is the way Don gave his loyal readers the facts in an unbiased way and let them make their own judgments.

In the State House, Don was constantly on the lookout for news, churning out several stories each day. His "Under the State House Dome" column was a must read for anyone who wanted to be informed about the latest yet to break news and information about politics in New Hampshire.

Although Don is a lifelong member of the Fourth Estate, which often has a skeptical or even adversarial stance toward government officials, he always went the extra mile to listen to both sides of the story and reflect these views in his stories.

The only time he did not play it down the middle was when he was on the golf course, where he has been known to hit an occasional errant shot.

As someone who Don has covered for many years, I will miss him, and I know that his colleagues at the Union Leader and in the press corps will miss him too. The real questions is if Don will miss any of us. I wish both Don and Jane the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Those of us in government will greatly miss his reputation as an honest broker of the facts, a perceptive historian and judge of people, and for helping to keep the job of governing enjoyable.•

IN HONOR OF THE PALMIERIS' FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I would like to call to your attention a most momentous and joyful occasion. Theresa and Joseph Palmieri of Brooklyn, New York will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on January 31, 1998.

Theresa and Joseph were wed at Saint Rosalie Catholic Church in Brooklyn, New York on January 31, 1948. The couple was introduced at a "Welcome Home" for Joseph after his return from service during World War II. Living and working on Long Island, New York for the past thirty-five years, the Palmieri family includes daughters Jo Ann and Theresa, sons Paul and Joseph, and seven grandchildren.

In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death do us part . . ." seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity.

Mr. President, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the entire Palmieri family in recognizing the wonderful sense of achievement and happiness that marks the golden wedding anniversary of Joseph and Theresa Palmieri.•

THE TYRE LODGE MASONIC TEMPLE OF COLDWATER

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Tyre Lodge Masonic Temple in Coldwater, Michigan. On January 17, the lodge celebrated its 150th anniversary. To put this in perspective, this lodge was issued its charter 15 years before President Abraham Lincoln delivered the historic Gettysburg Address.

The Tyre Lodge has been a pillar of its community for many years. Volunteering their time, efforts and talents into an organization, Masons have consistently provided invaluable services to their community. The members of the lodge have always searched for new ways to provide opportunities for their fellow members and citizens of their local community. This strong commitment to helping other individuals is outstanding, and I commend each member of the association for all their tireless efforts.

On February 7, the lodge will be hosting a dinner and program to celebrate this achievement, and I would like to express my warmest wishes for a successful evening. Again, I would like to thank the members of the lodge for their dutiful dedication to the Coldwater community, and wish them the brightest of futures.•

TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL FLOYD

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to a teacher in New Mexico who is an excellent example of service and commitment to education and the students of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Marshall Floyd has been a teacher at Highland High School since 1953, a member of numerous educational related boards, and has received a wide variety of educational honors, including being the recipient of the Outstanding Biology Teacher of New Mexico by the National Association of Biology Teachers in 1974 and receiving the Science Teacher of the Year Citation from the New Mexico Science Teachers Association in 1981. In 1990, Albuquerque Public Schools named Highland High School's new science building after him in recognition of his service to the school and the educational community.

Mr. President, on January 12, the community of Albuquerque and Highland High School paid tribute to this remarkable teacher, and today I join with my fellow New Mexicans in expressing my admiration for Marshall Floyd's continued dedication to educating the students of New Mexico and his commitment to the community of Albuquerque.•

THE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS REDRESS ACT

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the House of Representatives on passage of S. 1564, "The Holocaust Victims Redress Act."

The bill was passed by the Senate on November 13, 1997, and was referred back to the House where it was originally introduced by my colleagues, the chairman of the House Banking Committee, Representative JIM LEACH, and chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Representative BEN GILMAN. I am very pleased that we have been able to work together to pass this important legislation enabling the correction of a horrible injustice after the war. Now, needy survivors can obtain some measure of justice and dignity.

Mr. President, this important bill contains two main provisions. First, the bill authorizes $25 million for a U.S. donation to the fund established by the United States and the United Kingdom at the London Conference on Nazi Gold in December. Second, the bill authorizes $5 million for research into the issue and translation of foreign language documents coming from this effort. The administration has been fully supportive of this effort. Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, particularly, has played a vital role in this effort and without him we would not be where we are today on the issue.

Regarding the $5 million authorized in the bill for research, it is my strong belief that the management of these funds should be granted to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This museum is the one organization uniquely capable of conducting research like this, research that is a core function of its mission. The Museum, I might add, has been an invaluable aid to the Banking Committee during our on-going inquiry into the disposition of Holocaust-era assets by Swiss banks from before, during, and after the Holocaust. Accordingly, I can think of no better group to manage the research funding from this bill than the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Mr. President, I again want to thank my colleagues for their help in obtaining passage for this important bill. If we are going to try to obtain justice for victims of the Holocaust. While much more needs to be done on this issue, this is an important measure in this long overdue effort.•

CHILD SUPPORT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) has been added as a cosponsor to S. 1293, the Child Support Performance Improvement Act. Senator SNOWE and I introduced this legislation last year to call for critical ways to strengthen child support enforcement, including an effort to address the critical need for medical support among children with absent parents.

It is an honor to have Senator KERRY, a long-time child advocate and leader, join Senator SNOWE and me in our effort to promote effective and efficient child support enforcement. Senator KERRY's commitment to this issue is well known, and he has been aggressive pushing for action through previous legislation.

Today, we are joining forces to promote our bill, S. 1293, and to work together on a new initiative to resolve the lingering barriers that prevent enforcement of medical child support, a crucial aspect of support and stability for children and families. Senator KERRY's special commitment to medical support is clear. Working with him and other colleagues, we want to eliminate the barriers which hinder State agencies from effectively implementing the 1984 Federal law that requires States to petition for medical child support, if it is available from non-custodial parents. Our law says children should not be discriminated against in health care coverage in cases of divorce, but we need to work together to ensure that this obvious principle works in practice. Public health coverage, through Medicaid or the new children's health initiative, should not be a substitute for private insurance from parents when such insurance is available. We hope to ensure that children get coverage they need and deserve.

To achieve our goals, we want to work with congressional colleagues, child advocates, State leaders, interested business groups and the administration to ensure that we forge consensus on ways to tear down existing barriers to health care coverage that is fair and streamlined.

The technical nature of this issue is complicated. But the reality for children and families is clear—medical coverage means that parents have the peace of mind that their children can obtain the health care that is so vital for a healthy, successful childhood. I welcome Senator KERRY's support and urge all of my colleagues to join in this effort.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the distinguished Senator from West Virginia as a cosponsor

of this very important child support legislation. He has long been a leader on these issues and I am delighted to work with him to ensure that children get the support they need and deserve. I particularly look forward to working together to pass medical enforcement legislation. At least 700,000 children nationwide have a health insurance order through an ERISA-protected plan where the noncustodial parent fails to provide the required coverage. Providing an efficient, effective way for child support agencies to enforce the requirement for medical child support coverage through ERISA-protected plans would result in more children with private health insurance and reduced public costs for medical coverage.•

RECOGNITION OF ZION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a tremendous accomplishment by the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Reverend Frank L Selkirk III, Ph.D. As of December 31, 1997, the Church has raised enough money, from members and the Kansas City, MO, community to pay their mortgage.

The Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church Family will commemorate this achievement with a "Mortgage Burning Ceremony" on January 18. The hard work and perseverance of all the members at Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church will begin to show in 1998 when money becomes available for new programs and possible expansion.

I congratulate Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church for their hard work and success. Additionally, I commend staff and members for their spirit and energy throughout their many years of existence and wish them continued success in enriching the Kansas City community for years to come.•

DANIEL J. KEARNEY

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and mourn a loss for the working men and women of this country.

On Friday, January 2, 1998, Mr. Daniel J. Kearney of Cohasset, MA, passed away. On that day the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United States of America lost an individual who embodied and protected the most cherished principles of this Nation.

From his military service to his fervent support of the labor movement, Mr. Kearney led a quintessentially American life, one that contained family and sacrifice, struggle and victory. He married the late Mary A. MacGrath, and together they raised daughters Gail and Linda. His distinguished service in the U.S. Navy spanned the period from World War II through Korea, and he maintained this commitment to his Nation through leadership and service in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Mr. Kearney began his long career in the labor community as an apprentice blacksmith at the Boston Naval Yard in 1946, where he graduated from the Boston Naval Shipyard Apprentice School. In 1952, he served as a program engineer for the Navy, and this resulted in his becoming a contract negotiator for shipbuilding in 1956. In this position, Mr. Kearney worked on the construction and conversion of nuclear attack and ballistic missile submarines, helping navigate our Nation's defense through a historic and complex transition.

His largest contribution to this country, however, was his relentless and passionate advocacy on behalf of working men and women, and his early posts in the Navy yards of Massachusetts were the origin of his life-long campaign for organized labor.

He went on to organize, and to serve as a union officer and local president of, various American Federation of Government Employees locals, lead the Philadelphia Council of the AFGE and serve as President of the Massachusetts State Council of Locals. He served as National Vice President of the AFGE, and later as Vice President Emeritus of AFGE's New England District.

Dan Kearney's faith in the electoral processes of this country, both local and national, was another passion. Beginning back when John F. Kennedy was first elected to Congress, and continuing through Senator Edward Kennedy's re-election in 1994 and my own re-election in 1996, Mr. Kearney was a welcome fixture in the Democratic campaigns of Massachusetts. For him, coordination of grass roots politics was another tool to help people improve their lives, and he gave it his all.

In later years, the issues facing senior Americans became his campaign, and his sincere advocacy of fairness and decency resulted in an appointment to the White House Council on Aging. As recently as several weeks ago, he dropped by my Boston office with thoughts on issues facing seniors, retired government employees, and the labor movement as a whole.

He leaves a loving family and many friends, and he leaves the world better for his efforts. As we celebrate his life, we offer our condolences and sympathy to all who knew and loved him.•

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA WHITE

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Virginia White, a public servant of outstanding integrity and honesty, who is retiring after 25 years of service to her community. On January 31, Virginia will end her tenure as Meridian Township Clerk.

In 1972, Virginia was first elected as Township Clerk on the promise to improve her community. Not only did she fulfill her pledge, but she began a long, meritorious career serving the people of Meridian Township. During her time as clerk, she established a reputation for hard work and dedication to serving her community. While a clerk, Virginia's dedication to Meridian Township was unsurpassed and she maintained the greatest of commitments to public service. Mr. President, Virginia White is one of few individuals I can think of who truly embodies the ideals and principles that define the term "public servant."

Virginia's desire to better her community reached far beyond Meridian Township. When she co-founded the Michigan Association of Clerks, a network was formed which brought city and township clerks across the State of Michigan together. Additionally, in an effort to create better systems of local governance, she wrote a national manual on conducting elections. Together, these efforts reflect Virginia's longstanding pursuit to provide her municipality with the best possible clerk. I am proud to say she accomplished this goal with great distinction. Although Virginia will be greatly missed, I know she is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement. I join her family, friends, and colleagues in wishing her all the best with her new endeavors and a bright future.•

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED MAYOR BETTY JO RHEA

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of South Carolina's leading ladies, Betty Jo Rhea. Betty Jo retired as Mayor of Rock Hill, SC, on January 20. With her retirement, my State loses one of its most beloved politicians and progressive leaders.

Betty Jo Rhea began her career of public service over 25 years ago, when she was appointed to the Rock Hill Parks and Recreation Commission. She was elected to the Rock Hill City Council in 1977, and has spent the last 20 years in the thick of her city's political fray.

In 1986, Rhea became Rock Hill's first woman Mayor. When she retired in January after 12 years in the office, she also was one of the city's longest serving and most popular mayors. During her tenure, Betty Jo focused her prodigious energies on attracting jobs to the region and preventing economic collapse in the wake of the closing of the textile mills that had underpinned Rock Hill's economy.

She has been incredibly successful. Not only did she help prevent a severe recession, she led Rock Hill in an economic rejuvenation. Under her leadership, the city built three business parks to attract large industries, began

a downtown revitalization and preservation program, and started a successful recycling program in cooperation with Rock Hill Clean and Green.

But Betty Jo didn't stop there. She also went abroad to promote Rock Hill, serving as the region's most successful ambassador. She was President of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, on the board of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and active in the National League of Cities.

In recognition of her achievements and dedication to her community, the Municipal Association of South Carolina awarded Rhea the Allison Farlow Award, its highest honor. And in appreciation of her support for recycling, conservation, and greenery programs, Rock Hill Clean and Green created the Rock Hill Environmental Action (RHEA) award, named in her honor. For Rhea's contributions to the community, Winthrop University bestowed on her an honorary doctorate.

As Betty Jo's friends and admirers know, her greatest attributes are her sunny disposition, charm, and complete devotion and loyalty to Rock Hill and its people. Of course, these qualities haven't hurt her in politics, either. They have won her many friends and allies; and no doubt her success as Mayor has been aided by her habit of baking homemade bread for City Council members at Christmas.

Fortunately for South Carolina, Betty Jo Rhea's retirement from her duties as Mayor is not a retirement from public life and community service. She is set to begin her new career as head of a fund-raising campaign for the arts, and she plans to volunteer with the Salvation Army. Rhea's days of ribbon-cutting are over, but the people of Rock Hill can look forward to many more years of her wise counsel and progressive leadership.

Mr. President, I salute Betty Jo Rhea. She exemplifies all the virtues of citizenship and political leadership. She has pursued politics not out of egotism, but rather from the sincere desire to help her neighbors and strengthen her community. Thanks to her leadership, Rock Hill has not only weathered economic hardship, it has ridden the storm to ever-rising economic heights.

As one of her many fans remarked upon her retirement, Betty Jo Rhea truly was "a people's mayor."•

RECOGNITION OF REPRESENTATIVE BONNIE SUE COOPER

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Missouri State Representative Bonnie Sue Cooper for her outstanding contributions to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). As last year's chairwoman, Bonnie Sue set a new leadership standard that will be a challenge for all future chairpersons.

ALEC is the largest bipartisan, individual membership association of State legislators in the country. After serving as vice-chairwoman for 2 years, Bonnie Sue was voted chairwoman for the 1997 term. According to Arkansas Speaker of the House Bobby Hogue, "In the year Bonnie Sue has been chairman there has been progress on every front at ALEC. It has strengthened its policy making operations and raised its profile among both legislators and the private sector." Speaker Hogue replaced Bonnie Sue as chairman.

Bonnie Sue has been an incredible leader, not only in the State of Missouri, but also at a national level. I enjoy seeing leadership of Bonnie Sue's caliber and know that there are only bigger things to come for her. I congratulate Representative Cooper on another outstanding year and wish her success in the future.•

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, we continue to see positive signs reflecting the strength of our national economy. Thirty-year mortgage rates remain low, consumer confidence is high and unemployment is down.

In the midst of these sustained positive trends, America faces new challenges as we approach a new century. Among them: meeting a critical need for skilled technology workers and the continuing effort to move more Americans from welfare to work.

We are an innovative people and I'm confident that we can meet new challenges, in part via public-private partnerships. One of the key people in America advancing the concept of public-private partnerships is Mr. Greg Farmer. As Florida's Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Farmer pioneered public-private partnerships at the state level, doing more with less tax dollars.

Now in the private sector, with Nortel, Mr. Farmer and his company are helping provide high-tech equipment to schools and technology training to help move people from welfare to work. On January 13, 1998, Mr. Farmer testified before the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. I commend his testimony to my colleagues and all those interested in public-private partnerships as a means of reducing welfare dependency and advancing job training. I respectfully ask that his testimony be printed in the RECORD:

The testimony follows:

STATEMENT OF GREG FARMER, VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, NORTEL

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. My name is Greg Farmer, and I am Vice President for Government Affairs and International Trade for Nortel (Northern Telecom). It gives me pleasure to be with you this morning to discuss some of the things Nortel is doing in the Washington, D.C. area to help prepare inner city youth for a fruitful life beyond high school, whether it be college or acquiring a special skill.

Bell Atlantic is a household word and all of you are certainly familiar with it. You might not be as well acquainted with Nortel (even though—and I hesitate to say this in case you had a telephone problem this morning—the Senate does have our telephone switch). Nortel is the leading global supplier of fully digital network solutions and services. We design, build and integrate digital networks that communicate voice, data, image and video for customers in the information, communications, entertainment, education, government and commerce markets. Our customers are local and long distance telecommunications companies, businesses, universities, governments, cable television companies, competitive local access providers, Internet services providers and other network operators around the world. We operate in 150 countries around the globe. We have more employees in the U.S. than anywhere else. Here, we are based in Nashville, Tennessee and have major state-of-the-art centers—including research and development, manufacturing, semiconductor and software-engineering facilities—in nine other states. And we have sales and services offices in every state of the union. We count Bell Atlantic as a good customer, and I am pleased to be on the panel today with my friend Bill Freeman.

Yesterday the Administration announced a massive public-private effort aimed at high tech training. This was in response to concerns by economists and business leaders that U.S. companies have a critical shortage of skilled technology workers. The initiative, which will include millions of dollars in grants to fund educational programs, comes as a new survey shows that 1 in every 10 information technology jobs in the U.S. is unfulfilled.

This comes as no surprise to Nortel. As with other telecommunications companies, education and workforce development is an essential part of Nortel's overall business strategy. Our industry requires highly skilled workers at even the most basic entry level positions. We are constantly looking for opportunities to work with organizations that provide training and enhance our workforce.

The Administration ought to take a good look at Capital Commitment. It is a stellar example of a high tech training program that works. It is a shiny gem; a diamond in a rusty crown. And I hope some of those grants will go to Capital Commitment so it can continue the incredible success it has enjoyed in the past.

One only need hear the Ricky Mozee story to understand the cascading good this program has for individuals and for our community. Ricky Mozee is a walking, talking welfare-to-work success story. Before finding Capital Commitment in 1992, Ricky was a drug and alcohol abuser, living on welfare in the tough streets of Anacostia. In his own words, he had no future; his family had no future; he was afraid to dream. He was fighting his addictions and looking at an 84 percent unemployment rate in his community. Then he found Capital Commitment. Today, he has a high paying job as a telecommunications supervisor at National Airport. He owns a house in suburban Maryland. He supports a wife and three children. He is a poster boy for what the future could be, if we get it right.

When LaVerne and Ernest Boykin established Capital Commitment in 1991, their vision to train inner city youth in telecommunications and life skills and to facilitate job opportunities for them resonated

well with our corporate goals. Since that time, Nortel has been actively involved with Capital Commitment. We have observed a dramatic increase in employment opportunities for the unemployed, under-employed, at risk youth and single parents from the District of Columbia. As a result, we have also observed a significant shift of money from public assistance to taxable income.

In those early days, we worked with the Capital Commitment management team to identify factors critical for their success and discovered their needs went far beyond financial support.

Nortel's support of Capital Commitment since its inception includes:

Providing well over $1 million in funding, equipment and personnel resources (switches, computers and state-of-the-art office equipment as well as technical expertise, training materials);

Providing management advice and coaching;

Taking the lead in turning Capital Commitment into an industry sponsored organization;

Establishing a fundraising golf tournament;

Working to replicate Capital Commitment in California & Texas;

Serving on Capital Commitment's Board (Stuart Mapes, Nortel's National Director of Minority and Women Business Program).

In addition, I am pleased to announce today that Nortel will donate and install a new Nortel Central Office Switch to be used for advanced training.

We have also worked with Bell Atlantic and other private companies to expand corporate funding of the program. I might add here that one of the most telling successes of this program is the fact that Nortel and other corporate sponsors of Capital Commitment have been diligent in working cooperatively. We work with our customers, such as Bell Atlantic, MCI and Sprint, but also with our competitors, such as Seimens and Lucent, in promoting this program. There is something in it for each of us. Not only does it make us sleep a little easier at night to know that we are being good corporate citizens and helping disadvantaged youth become a part of this dynamic industry; but also, in a cold business sense, we are receiving great benefits too.

Nortel and the telecommunications industry in general are in constant need of highly qualified technical employees. Capital Commitment graduates students who are highly trained in these skills. We have hired over 100 Capital Commitment graduates who have proven to be well trained, competent and reliable employees. As a matter of fact, Capital Commitment graduates have a 90+ percent placement rate and an impressive 80+ percent retention rate! This welfare-to-work program really works.

There is another aspect to this program which is missing from other traditional welfare-to-work programs. The Boykins teach their students critical lifeskills and stress to their students the importance of "paying back" their communities. Many of their graduates return to Capital Commitment to help instruct students, or pay back their communities by being role models for others. So the legacy of Capital Commitment lives on in their graduates and provides long term benefits to the community.

I am committed to spreading the word about Capital Commitment. I have personally taken numerous Administration officials through the program. I found that a tour of Capital Commitment makes believers out of all who go there. My goal is to find sources of federal, state and local funding to help this incredible program expand. I would encourage each of you to take time from your very busy schedules to visit Capital Commitment, which is located a few short miles from here. There is nothing any of us can say to you today that will have the impact a personal visit will have. It will, I know, be time well spent.

We at Nortel believe very strongly that Capital Commitment is an important and solid example of how business can work within the community to provide increased opportunity for movement from welfare-to-work in highly paid, career oriented jobs in a high growth industry. The need for skilled technicians to enter this industry is growing rapidly so it is incumbent upon us to accelerate efforts to assure continued progress for this important program. Capital Commitment provides opportunities for our most disadvantaged citizens to become productive, well paid workers in this dynamic industry.

Having said all of this, there is trouble in paradise. Capital Commitment is a shiny gem but it sits in a rusty crown, badly in need of attention by our policy makers.

We at Nortel believe that corporate-community partnerships are the key to educating and gainfully employing a greater number of high skilled workers. However, there is a third critically important partner needed in these job training programs if they are to be successful: the government.

I worry that Capital Commitment might not be able to continue because it is lacking financial support of any kind by the government.

It is the government's role to encourage programs which take people who are on welfare and turn them into gainfully employed, responsible citizens who pay taxes and otherwise contribute to their community. This is what Capital Commitment does so well. And the corporate community by all accounts has been extremely generous with financial and other resources to help them achieve this goal. The corporate community benefits from the program; we strongly support the program. And while the Government also has much to gain from these efforts, there has been little effort by the government to encourage this activity.

Capital Commitment is a victim of its own success. Ernest and LaVerne Boykin triumphed in setting up a high quality welfare-to-work program that actually works. It takes people off of welfare and helps them get jobs in a growing industry.

Capital Commitment is a public-private partnership without the public. The government has simply not done its part in encouraging this most successful program.

In my previous two stints at public service, I learned first-hand the benefits of converting traditional governmental functions into public-private partnership.

As Florida's Commerce Secretary I converted several functions within the department to public-private partnerships, including film and motion picture promotion, sports promotion and tourism promotion. Finally the economic development function was converted to a public-private partnership (Enterprise Florida), completely eliminating the Department of Commerce, which might appeal to some of you.

As U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Travel and Tourism, I convened the first-ever White House Conference on Tourism charged with planning strategy for the industry for the next five years. The number one recommendation was that the agency be converted to a public-private partnership.

The reason is that a public-private partnership leverages maximum resources in the most positive way possible. It achieves the public purpose the government wants to achieve; it brings the discipline of business to the operation; it provides accountability; it is cost effective by nature because business simply will not be a part of something which is not effective. History shows public-private partnerships are almost always more effective in terms of achievement and cost than government working alone.

As an aside, you may all be aware that there is an effort underway in D.C. to revive a plan endorsed by the White House to create a National Capital Revitalization Corporation, a separate legal entity that would oversee development activities in struggling commercial areas across the city. The corporation, a public-private partnership, would be charged with drafting a strategic economic development plan for the city and would have the power to acquire property, issue bonds and conduct other activities which would ensure economic growth happens.

I endorse this plan because I believe there is no where else in this country that needs a public-private effort to revitalize the economy more than the District of Columbia.

Capital Commitment would fit well into this new economic plan. But what we have with Capitol Commitment now is a public-private partnership in which the public has not been present. The results have a tremendous public return. Over 500 former welfare recipients now are earning high wages, paying taxes and contributing to the economic development of their communities. A proven success record. Yet there has been precious little government investment and apparently no realization of the value this program has in achieving a critical government goal.

Before I conclude, let me briefly tell you about some of our other efforts to be helpful in D.C.

Nortel recognizes that computer-based learning is crucial in preparing our students for the 21st Century. So, 18 months ago, we began a program to assist the D.C. school system. We began by providing computers to Burrville Elementary and Hine Junior High School. Nortel also provided the expertise and training necessary to ensure the computers were operable and the teachers knew how to instruct the children. Access to the Internet was an essential ingredient. The computers were most successful at Burrville and Hine, well run schools with excellent teachers and children eager to learn. However, we soon learned that much more needed to be done.

To respond to this need, we assembled a coalition of federal and city government officials and private corporations aimed at providing inner city D.C. schools with computers, software and Internet access. We met to discuss how, working together, we could provide on an ongoing basis, computers, access to the Internet, software and technical support to inner city schools. It soon became apparent, however, that there was no accounting system for tracking what the D.C. schools presently have or what they need. So we had to start from scratch. Before we could be truly helpful, we first needed to get a handle on what the D.C. school system already had, what was working and what was not and exactly what was needed. A more structured organization was required.

This led to the creation of Partners in Technology (PIT), a non-profit foundation established to foster technology-based public-private partnerships in the D.C. school

system. I am pleased to serve as Chairman of the Board of PIT.

The goal of PIT is to improve the quality of education in our local educational institutions by increasing the level and maximizing the impact of community investments made by the private sector. We learned from experience that to be most effective takes more than just donating equipment.

PIT is funded by corporate charter members and is seeking matching funding for programs and operations from private, public and federal sources.

Although in its infancy, PIT—in partnership with the District Branch of Tech Corps—has already initiated:

Researching and developing plans for an "acceptable" standard work station/computer that will meet the overall education needs of the student. This includes working closely with the D.C. Public Schools in providing assistance and consultation on strategic planning and inventory management. For instance, PIT is in discussions with DC Tech Corps in looking at ways to develop effective technology training programs for the faculty. PIT understands it cannot be effective unless we have trained educators that can and want to teach students how to use the tools of technology in order to enhance their education.

Establishing a pilot project which is being tested to allow schools to turn over obsolete computer equipment for a credit by a computer remanufacturer. This credit may be used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment and comprehensive computer training for teachers. In addition, local non-profit remanufacturers have expressed an interest in working to provide repair training and intern opportunities for D.C. students in the schools and at their facilities.

Coordinating the establishment of a computer program within the D.C. public schools which will establish student clubs with faculty-adult supervision.

These are just a few of the activities already undertaken by PIT. High on our list is to assist the D.C. Public Schools in compiling an accurate inventory of all computer/phone equipment and systems. This will include an inventory of each school's human and corporate resources. This is a critical step in providing the necessary information for intelligent and effective planning.

We plan to be more active as we develop and believe we can become a highly effective link for the D.C. public schools. We want to ensure that D.C. has the computer equipment they need and the teachers have the resources they need to ensure proper operation of the equipment, access to the super highway and training so D.C. students are assured of having a good, solid education which will prepare them for a good future.

We have coupled our efforts with Capital Commitment and PIT. Capital Commitment has arranged office space for PIT in its facility, and we have provided computers for both organizations to enhance their effectiveness.

Again, thank you for allowing me to present to you this morning to discuss these two important programs, both of which could be easily transported to other parts of the country where there is also critical need.

We encourage other corporations to join us in ensuring that organizations like Capital Commitment and PIT are securely funded. And we would also encourage our policy makers to take a careful look at programs like these for government funding. These are programs where a little bit of funding can go a very long way in enhancing economic development to the betterment of all citizens.

We need to provide the shiny gem that is Capital Commitment with a gleaming crown so it can beacon far and wide to others who can copy this program and get into the business of turning lives around.

I would be happy to answer any questions.•

BRUCE AND KATHY CONTWAY

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend two Montana artists for their dedication and talent.

In the West, we are accustomed to western art whether in the form of a Charlie Russell painting or a Frederick Remington bronze. But today I would like to recognize the future of Western bronze sculpture art defining our nation's roots and the hardy souls who lived off the land and gave us the rich history that will always be a part of our nation's beginning.

Bruce and Kathy Contway of Whitehall, Montana, have helped to preserve that history as well as to find their own place in history as American artists. These two artists are becoming well-known internationally for their abilities and their works celebrating a colorful Native American and Old West past. Their art has helped to make accessible to all of us the distinctive culture and customs of this nation's first inhabitants.

The Contways, have certainly earned the honors they have received. Their dedication and hard work were recently rewarded when they each received the admiration of their peers and fans alike.

1997 was a year of recognition for the Contways. Bruce was named the Indian Arts and Crafts Association (IACA) Artist of the Year and was also awarded the steer wrestling and bareback riding bronze commissions during the 1997 Calgary Stampede Trophy Bronze Competition. Kathy was awarded the envy of all artists participating in the Stampede competition—the Chuckwagon Race Outriders bronze. Mr. President, bronze artists everywhere understand the significance of these honors.

The work of Bruce and Kathy indicates a strong pride in their Native American heritage. Their remarkable talent combined with modest self-recognition is an inspiration to young artists across our country. And their desire to pass on their legacy and pride is a tribute to all Montanans.

Among their peers, Bruce and Kathy are considered world-class artists. Among their neighbors, Bruce and Kathy are considered friends. The Contways are very involved in the local community. Accomplished high school and college rodeo stars, they enjoy working with local students in the high school's rodeo club.

Last December, the front page headline of the Whitehall Ledger read, 'Contway art "Stampedes" to great year'. The article was a fitting tribute to two of Montana's best. Artists with this kind of talent are difficult to find, and you can bet that a Contway bronze will be a treasured work of art on any lucky owner's mantel.•

THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG EXCHANGE

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, since 1983, the United States Congress and the German Parliament have conducted an annual exchange program for senior staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and convey Members' views on issues of mutual concern. The program is now in its 15th year and has strong support and participation from federal agencies as well as corresponding support from the German government.

A staff delegation from the United States Congress will be chosen to visit Germany March 22 to April 4 of this year. During the two week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag Members, Bundestag party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Cultural activities and a weekend visit in a Bundestag Member's district will complete the schedule.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for three weeks this summer. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Congressional Members.

The Congress-Bundestag Exchange is highly regarded in Germany, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. The ongoing situation in Bosnia, the future expansion of NATO and the proposed expansion of the European Union, as well as plans for a single currency will make this year's exchange particularly relevant.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff members who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag sends senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern in Germany and the United States such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, immigration, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the

program for the Bundestag staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two Bundestag staffers in their Member's district over the July Fourth break, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants will be selected by a committee composed of U.S. Information Agency personnel and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state why they believe they are qualified and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated. Applications may be sent to Kathie Scarrah, in my office at 706 Hart Senate Building, by Thursday, February 12.•

TRIBUTE TO THE GALLATIN AMERICAN LEGION POST 17 SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as a physician I have long advocated maintaining a healthy lifestyle. I'm always amazed when individuals prove that exercise and eating right are simple requirements for remaining healthy and staying young at heart. The Gallatin American Legion Post 17 Softball team is just such a group that is having fun staying healthy and exercising regularly.

This is no ordinary softball team, these ladies are sixty-years of age and older. This special team is comprised of women from all over middle Tennessee. The team was formed in 1994. They practice each Monday in Gallatin and in the winter they keep up their stamina by using the Gallatin Sports Complex for their weekly softball practices. That same year they participated in the State tournament and won. Since then they are proud to be a force to reckon with on the Senior's Softball circuit.

This past spring the team traveled to Tucson, Arizona to participate in the International Senior Olympic Games. The competition drew more than 12,000 seniors over sixty-years-old from all over the world who competed in a variety of athletic events. The Gallatin American Legion Post 17 Softball team, with 13 players and two coaches, faced competition from nine teams across the United States and Canada. These ladies played hard and their dedication and determination paid off when they came home with the gold medal. They won each of the six games in which they played and outscored their Olympic competitors 122–10.

Since winning the International Olympics gold medal these women have not rested on their laurels. They're back on the field practicing and playing the game. Because of the increase in interest in women's softball for seniors, leagues have cropped up across the country, and they gather for yearly tournaments. The ladies of Gallatin American Legion Post 17 maintain their busy schedule with practices and games to defend their international title.

This newly developed enthusiasm for senior athletic groups is truly inspiring. These women serve as role models for younger generations and encourage participation from other seniors. They are living examples of the happiness that seniors can find in exercising and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. I want to congratulate the Gallatin American Legion Post 17 Softball team not only for winning the gold medal at the International Senior Citizen's Olympics but for also winning in the game of life. These ladies are active and healthy, taking advantage of their older years rather than letting old age take care of them. I wish them the best of luck in the future.•

TRIBUTE AND THANKS TO AL ALM

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, in just a few days, the Department of Energy will lose one of its best, most able and selfless public servants. Al Alm, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Energy's Environmental Management program, is leaving federal service on January 31.

Al epitomizes the best in public service. Integrity and responsibility are his hallmarks. He has left those marks throughout the government, in academia, and in private industry. Al's government service has included positions in the Atomic Energy Commission, the Bureau of the Budget, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and two stints in the Department of Energy. He has been a tireless advocate for the programs in which he has been involved, most notably for me, cleanup of our nation's most polluted former defense nuclear production sites.

I personally found Al to be the most accessible and helpful assistant secretary in the administration. He worked closely with me, other members of the Washington congressional delegation, our staffs, and our constituents to ensure Hanford's most important programs received adequate funding and support. Al's steadfast support for Hanford, in the face of so many competing needs, has been outstanding. Whether it is safety, funding, expediting work, or employee concerns, he has been out in front. I will sorely miss Al.

Al has accomplished a lot in the 20 months in which he has served as the leader of Environmental Management. He has led the charge in revitalizing management and focusing energy on getting sites—and programs—closed, or well on their way to closure, by 2006. The billions of dollars and decades of time saved are extraordinary in themselves, but the public health and environmental protection are the real, tangible results of his efforts. He has helped us develop a goal and start moving toward that goal.

Mr. President, I want to say a big thank you to Al Alm on behalf of myself and my Senate colleagues. We will miss him and his leadership of a very difficult, complex and controversial program. We wish him all the best in whatever endeavors he undertakes and hope he leaves knowing how much we have appreciated his enthusiasm and hard work.•

RECOGNITION OF STEVEN MILLER

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Steven Miller whose dedication to Missouri athletics has earned him a place in the Missouri State Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame. For more than 20 years Coach Miller has strived to make his Francis Howell High School team in St. Charles, Missouri one of the best.

Under Coach Miller's guidance, The Francis Howell track team has won 22 out of 39 Conference titles and the Cross Country team has won 10 out of 18. Even more impressive are the individual accomplishments by his former athletes. Coach Miller has coached one pole vaulter who proceeded to the 1996 Summer Olympics, a woman distance runner who became a two-time NCAA Division I All-American, more than 50 athletes who have become coaches, 14 state champions and a girl's cross country team who won the state championship in 1987.

High school athletics is an area that I believe helps to teach very important values to young people and it is always encouraging to learn of a coach with the drive and commitment to excellence shown by coach Miller. Coaches, athletes and parents at Francis Howell High School are fortunate to have such an inspirational role model and educator.

I congratulate Coach Miller for his hard work and success. Additionally, I commend his undying energy throughout his many years of coaching and wish him continued success at Francis Howell High School.•

TRIBUTE TO WATO RADIO

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President. I would like to congratulate WATO radio in Oak Ridge, Tennessee for 50 years of radio broadcasting excellence. WATO got its start in 1948 when it was commissioned by the Department of Energy (DOE), which in those days was known as the Atomic Energy Commission.

WATO was the first radio station established on a military reservation. It

was created as a service to the growing community that resulted with the establishment of the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation in the early 1940's. Over the years, WATO has kept Oak Ridgers in touch with the DOE and other government related entities. The station has also made the community an important part of their programing, through its coverage of local events. Whether it be educational activities, athletic events or providing the community with important service announcements, WATO is very much involved in the Oak Ridge community.

Mr. President. WATO has become a familiar voice to area residents. Their support of the Oak Ridge community and their close relationship with DOE, the areas most prominent employer, have made WATO a vital part of the community. I commend the time and commitment that WATO has invested over the past 50 years in their programing and their relationship with the people of Oak Ridge. I wish them another 50 years of success.●

1997 YEAR END REPORT

The mailing and filing date of the 1997 Year End Report required by the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended, is Saturday, January 31, 1998. Principal campaign committees supporting Senate candidates file their reports with the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510–7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office on (202) 224–0322.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATIONS OF ANN AIKEN, BARRY SILVERMAN AND RICHARD STORY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of our distinguished majority leader, Senator LOTT, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc the following nominations on the executive calendar: No. 454, Ann Aiken; No. 486, Barry Silverman; No. 488, Richard Story.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be a total of 2 hours for debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member.

I further ask consent that at 2:15 on Wednesday the Senate proceed to 3 consecutive votes on the confirmation of the nominations. I finally ask consent that following the votes, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1575

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LOTT, I understand that S. 1575, which was introduced earlier today by Senator COVERDELL, is at the desk. I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1575) to rename the Washington National Airport located in the District of Columbia and Virginia as the "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport."

Mr. SPECTER. On behalf of Senator LOTT, I now ask for a second reading and object to my own request on behalf of the other side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be read on the next legislative day.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DENVER BRONCOS AND THEIR QUARTERBACK JOHN ELWAY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LOTT, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed en bloc to the consideration of Senate resolution 166 and Senate resolution 167, which were submitted earlier today by Senators CAMPBELL and ALLARD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions, en bloc.

A resolution (S. Res. 166) recognizing the outstanding achievements of the Denver Broncos in winning Super Bowl XXXII.

A resolution (S. Res. 167) recognizing the outstanding achievement of the Denver Broncos' quarterback, John Elway, in the victory of the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolutions?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to these resolutions appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 166 and S. Res. 167) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, are as follows:

S. RES. 166

Whereas on August 14, 1959, a passion was born in the heart of the Rocky Mountain Region that brought such memories as "Orange Crush," "The Drive," "The Fumble," "The Three Amigos," and 4 previous Super Bowl appearances;

Whereas the fans of the Denver Broncos are recognized throughout the National Football League (referred to in this resolution as the "NFL") for their unconditional allegiance to the team, contributing to 229 consecutive sold-out stadium home games;

Whereas the Denver Broncos' organization assembled a championship caliber coaching staff who created a championship caliber team;

Whereas the Denver Broncos played in 4 previous Super Bowls without winning, represented the American Football Conference in Super Bowl XXXII which had not won a Super Bowl in 13 years, and was considered the underdog in the game; and

Whereas after almost 40 years, the Denver Broncos became champions of the NFL with a victory in Super Bowl XXXII over the defending national champions and perennial contenders, the Packers from Green Bay, Wisconsin: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the outstanding achievement of the Denver Broncos in winning Super Bowl XXXII on January 25, 1998; and

(2) congratulates the players, staff, and fans of the Denver Broncos for a terrific football season and a thrilling victory in Super Bowl XXXII.

S. RES. 167

Whereas since becoming quarterback for the Denver Broncos in 1983, John Elway has been involved in some of the most striking comeback victories in the history of the National Football League (referred to in this resolution as the "NFL");

Whereas John Elway has been a Pro Bowl quarterback, was named NFL Most Valuable Player in 1987 and the American Football Conference's Most Valuable Player in 1993, holds numerous NFL passing records, and is the all-time winningest quarterback in the history of the NFL;

Whereas John Elway's leadership, dedication, and perseverance symbolizes excellence in these qualities for the entire Nation and represents these qualities for America to the world; and

Whereas John Elway, an exceptional athlete, has sustained a high level of personal competitiveness and has finally led his team to the honor of a Super Bowl championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the outstanding achievement of the Denver Broncos' quarterback, John Elway; and

(2) congratulates John Elway as the winning quarterback of Super Bowl XXXII.

FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate resolution No. 169, submitted earlier today by Senator HATCH and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A resolution (S. Res 169) to designate February 3, 1998, as "Four Chaplains Day".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, S. Res. 169, commemorates the "Immortal Four Chaplains" whose brave sacrifice is an inspiring story of personal honor and patriotism. Their heroism of 55

years ago stands today as an eloquent and enduring example of service, fellowship, and love.

On February 3, 1943, a German U-boat torpedoed the American transport ship Dorchester, sinking it off the coast of Greenland. Among the nearly 1,000 American soldiers aboard the Dorchester were four chaplains whose selfless acts of courage have left a distinguished legacy, a legacy that we hope to honor and remember in this resolution.

Survivors' accounts describing the short 18 minutes that the ship was sinking report that Lieutenant George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lieutenant John P. Washington, a Catholic priest; and Lieutenant Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister worked to alert the soldiers to the danger and direct them to safety. They distributed life jackets until no more were available. Then, these four Army chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to four soldiers.

One soldier witnessed a chaplain giving his gloves to a panicked GI shivering in the Arctic air to prevent the young man from returning to his cabin for his own. The chaplains helped 230 men to safety and then chose to remain to calm and comfort the nearly 700 who went down with the ship. True to their faiths and to their fellowmen until the end, they were last seen, arms linked in prayer, on the hull of the ship.

A postage stamp in 1948 entitled "Interfaith in Action" commemorated their bravery. Congress passed a concurrent resolution in 1957 to honor these chaplains and those who died with them. Presidents Truman and Eisenhower also issued proclamations calling for national participation in memorial services throughout the country. The American Legion holds an annual commemorative service on the first Sunday of February.

This coming Sunday, February 3, 1998 marks the 55th anniversary of an episode in our history that is tragic yet uplifting. Let us remember these acts of bravery which were not bound or limited by creed or rank. Their timeless sacrifice reminds us that we should not be divided by our differences, but that we should face the travails of our nation together, with faith and strength.

I urge the speedy passage of S. Res. 169.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, there are acts of courage and personal sacrifice that are so great that they should never be forgotten. There are acts which decades—even centuries—later still reverberate, and touch our soul as a nation. Surely, the heroic deeds of the "Immortal Four Chaplains" count among such acts.

These four Chaplains sacrificed their lives to save the lives of others when the *Dorchester*, a transport ship, was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of Greenland on February 3, 1943. During the 18 minutes that the *Dorchester* was sinking, the four Army Chaplains—a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, and two Protestant ministers—worked to comfort the frightened men and direct them to safety. They distributed life jackets, and when there were no more in the storage locker, the Chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to waiting soldiers.

Rabbi Alexander Goode did not ask whether the soldier that he was giving his life jacket to was Jewish; Father John Washington did not ask whether he was Catholic; Reverend George Fox did not ask whether he was Methodist; and Reverend Clark Poling did not ask whether he was Dutch Reformed. The Chaplains simply took off their own life jackets and gave them to the next in line.

The Chaplains were last seen on the hull, with their arms linked together in prayer, consoling the men who remained on the ship with a final service. The way that they died is so poignant because it reflects the way that they lived—full of devotion to God and serving the needs of their fellow men. As one survivor noted, the Chaplains "were always together . . . they carried their Faith together."

Of the 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard the *Dorchester*, only 230 survived. Many of them owed their lives to the actions of the four Chaplains. Their heroic actions served as an inspiration to the survivors of the *Dorchester;* they should be an inspiration to us now.

The courage of these four Chaplains, and their service to our country did not go unrecognized. Each was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for services beyond the call of duty; memorials to their sacrifice have been placed around the country, including in the Pentagon and the National Cathedral; a postage stamp entitled "Interfaith in Action" was issued in their memory; and in 1957, Congress declared the anniversary of the sinking of the *Dorchester* to be a day for the commemoration of the deaths and the heroic acts of the four Chaplains.

Tragically, however, the memory of their selfless acts has faded. Aside from the American Legion, which has annually observed the anniversary of their deaths, few continue to recognize this somber occasion.

I am proud to say, however, that some very special individuals in Minnesota are working to ensure that the legacy of the Four Chaplains lives on through The Four Chaplains Foundation, including: David Fox of Hopkins; Barbara Koch of Long Lake; Ardis Wexler of Edina; Kevin Applequist of St. Anthony; Phil Brain of Edina; Ambassador Robert Flaten of Northfield; Shiro Katagiri of Minneapolis; Representative Jim Rhodes of St. Louis Park; Helen Fulford of Bloomington; John Swon of Edina; Bettine Clemen of Minnetonka; and Vice President Walter Mondale of Minneapolis. These Minnesotans, joined by equally dedicated people around this Nation, and the world, have established the Four Chaplains Humanity Prize to ensure that the spirit of these Chaplains is celebrated through a living memorial. This prize will be awarded to those who have been willing to put their lives in danger to grant assistance to persons of a different creed or color.

Mr. President, it is fitting that on the 55th anniversary of the sinking of the *Dorchester*, and the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the commemorative stamp, Congress once again honors the memory of these four Chaplains by designating February 3, 1998 as "Four Chaplains Day." We have a duty to make sure that a grateful nation never forgets their sacrifice, and continues to celebrate the ideals for which they stood.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble agreed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 169) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 169

Whereas February 3, 1998, is the 55th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army transport Dorchester, an event that resulted in the loss of nearly 700 lives in 1943 and for which witnesses have recounted in the Congressional Record the heroism of 4 chaplains of different faiths, Lieutenant George L. Fox, Methodist; Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lieutenant John P. Washington, Catholic; and Lieutenant Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed;

Whereas witnesses have verified that during the approximate 18 minutes the ship was sinking after being torpedoed off the coast of Greenland, the 4 chaplains went from soldier to soldier calming fears and handing out life jackets and guiding men to safety and when there were no more life jackets, they removed their own life jackets and gave them to others to save their lives and were last seen arm-in-arm in prayer on the hull of the ship;

Whereas many of the 230 men who survived owed their lives to these 4 chaplains, and witnesses among them recounted the unique ecumenical spirit and love for their fellow man these 4 demonstrated that were later illustrated in a popular postage stamp issued by the United States in 1948 with the title "Interfaith in Action";

Whereas Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution 90 in 1957 to honor these 4 chaplains and the men who died with them, and President Truman and President Eisenhower issued similar proclamations calling for national recognition and participation in memorial services throughout the land that

have been observed annually by the American Legion on the first Sunday in February;

Whereas Congress undertook to create a special medal for valor given to the memory of the 4 chaplains in 1960 and never to be repeated; and

Whereas memorials to the chaplains' heroic sacrifice abound in many places throughout the country including the Heroes Window in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) requests the President of the United States to issue a proclamation designating February 3, 1998, as "Four Chaplains Day"; and

(2) invites the people of the United States, of all religions and creeds and in all communities, to observe this date with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and commemorations.

ORDER FOR RECESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 8:30 p.m. this evening for the joint session of Congress.

Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following the conclusion of the joint session, the Senate automatically stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 28.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1998

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, January 28, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I also ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday for the weekly policy luncheons to meet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LOTT, I ask unanimous consent that following the votes at 2:15 p.m., there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senator COVERDELL, or his designee, being recognized for the first 90 minutes and Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, being recognized for the next 90 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. SPECTER. As agreed to previously, tomorrow morning the Senate will debate, in executive session, the nominations of 3 judges. Also by consent, there will be 3 consecutive votes on the confirmation of those nominations following the weekly policy luncheons beginning 2:15 Wednesday afternoon. Following those votes, the Senate will be in a period for the transaction of morning business.

RECESS

Mr. SPECTER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:22 p.m., recessed until 8:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ALLARD).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF BOTH HOUSES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the adjournment resolution, H. Con. Res. 201, the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 201) was agreed to.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the State of the Union address. I believe we will be leaving in about 4 or 5 minutes, so I will yield the floor so we can assemble and go to the other body. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Thereupon, at 8:47 p.m., the Senate, preceded by the Secretary of the Senate, Gary Sisco, the Vice President, and the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND), proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States.

(The address by the President of the United States, this day delivered by him to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress, appears in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

ADJOURNMENT

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:30 p.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, January 28, 1998, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate January 27, 1998:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TOGO DENNIS WEST, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE JESSE BROWN, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN D. KELLY, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT, VICE FRANK J. MAGILL, RETIRED.

MARSHA L. BERZON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE JOHN T. NOONAN, JR., RETIRED.

KIM MCLEAN WARDLAW, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE J. CLIFORD WALLACE, RETIRED.

JUDITH M. BARZILAY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, VICE DOMINICK L. DICARLO, RETIRED.

DELISSA A. RIDGWAY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, VICE NICHOLAS TSOUCALAS, RETIRED.

WILLIAM P. DIMITROULEAS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE NORMAN C. ROETTGER, RETIRED.

ROBERT G. JAMES, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, VICE JOHN M. SHAW, RETIRED.

JAMES W. KLEIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE STANLEY S. HARRIS, RETIRED.

STEPHAN P. MICKLE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA VICE MAURICE M. PAUL, RETIRED.

JOHNNIE B. RAWLINSON, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA VICE LLOYD D. GEORGE, RETIRED.

RICHARD W. ROBERTS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VICE CHARLES R. RICHEY, RETIRED.

GREGORY MONETA SLEET, OF DELAWARE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE, VICE JOSEPH J. LONGOBARDI, RETIRED.

EMILIO W. CIVIDANES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE JOHN MAXWELL FERREN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Tuesday, January 27, 1998*

The House met at 12 noon.

The SPEAKER. This being the day fixed by Public Law 105–140 of the 105th Congress, enacted pursuant to the 20th Amendment to the Constitution for the meeting of the 2nd session of the 105th Congress, the House will be in order.

The prayer will be offered by the Chaplain.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David FORD, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come, we ask Your blessing upon us and upon all Your people. Your prophets of old have called us to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with You, and on this special day in the life of this place, we pray for those gifts. O gracious God, may we do the works of justice so all people are treated with equity and truth, may we open our hearts to express mercy to all people in great need, and may we, in all humility and goodwill, sustain our noble traditions and serve the common good. Bless us this day and every day we pray. Amen.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will utilize the electronic system to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

Members will record their presence by electronic device.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 1]

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Bachus
Baesler
Baker
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bateman
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Bryant
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Crane
Crapo
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeLauro
DeLay
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Fawell
Fazio
Filner
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fox
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gingrich
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Green
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hansen
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Horn
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hutchinson
Hyde
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (WI)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kim
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Klug
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Latham
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lucas
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manton
Manzullo
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (CA)
Miller (FL)
Minge
Mink
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pappas
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Paxon
Pease
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Poshard
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Redmond
Regula
Reyes
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryun
Sabo
Sánchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Scarborough
Schaefer, Dan
Schumer
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Adam
Smith, Linda
Snowbarger
Snyder
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Stokes
Strickland
Stump
Sununu
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Thomas
Thompson
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Velázquez
Vento
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Weygand
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wolf
Wynn
Yates
Young (FL)

□ 1240

The SPEAKER. On this rollcall, 364 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device.

Under the rule, further proceedings are dispensed with.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SOLOMON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 607. An act to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to require notice of cancellation rights with respect to private mortgage insurance which is required as a condition of entering into certain federally related mortgage loans and to provide for cancellation of such insurance, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 191. An act to throttle criminal use of guns.

S. 758. An act to make certain technical corrections to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

S. 1172. An act for the relief of Sylvester Flis.

S. 1213. An act to establish a National Ocean Council, a Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes.

S. 1566. An act to amend the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 to protect the voting rights of military personnel, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the German Government should expand and simplify its reparations system, provide reparations to Holocaust survivors in Eastern and Central Europe, and set up a fund to help cover the medical expenses of Holocaust survivors.

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 335) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 335

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 335

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). The Chair appoints as Members of the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT).

NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 336) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 336

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DAILY HOUR OF MEETING

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 337) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That unless otherwise ordered, before Monday, May 18, 1998, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; 11 a.m. on Tuesdays; and 10 a.m. on all other days of the week; and from Monday, May 18, 1998, until the end of the second session, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be noon on Mondays; 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENTS OF THE HOUSE AND RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 201) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 201

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, January 28, 1998, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 1998; that when the House adjourns on Thursday, February 5, 1998, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 1998; and that when the House adjourns on Thursday, February 12, 1998, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 1998, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursaunt to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Friday, February 13, 1998, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader, or his designee, in accordance with this concurrent resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, February 23, 1998, or such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1245

HOUR OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1998

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, January 28, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HOLOCAUST VICTIMS REDRESS ACT

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1564) to provide redress for inadequate restitution of assets seized by the United States Government during World War II which belonged to victims of the Holocaust, and for other purposes, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, but I do want to make a statement on the record with regard to the unanimous consent request for the House to consider H.R. 1564, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act.

Before I do that I ask the proponents of the bill for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAMILTON. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, we attempted to have a hearing on this issue last year. We were unable to because the witness who was to come before us had to cancel his appearance.

Would the gentleman set forth his objections to our bill?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yielded for the purpose of an explanation of the bill. Does the gentleman want me to go ahead and state my objection?

Mr. GILMAN. Please.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, let me state at the outset that Federal assistance for victims of the Holocaust is a very compelling priority. These victims have suffered as much as any human being. They have known the evil and the brutality that sometimes lurks unfortunately in the heart of man. It is fitting and understandable that the United States should be responsive. Restitution for victims of the Holocaust deserve our support.

Therefore, I will support S. 1564, and I commend my friend the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. JIM LEACH], the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for introducing the companion bill in the House, H.R. 2591.

While I support the substance of this bill and will vote for it and not object to the unanimous consent, I am nonetheless deeply disappointed by the process. This is the first Committee on

International Relations bill in this session and the committee, by the chairman's decision, has been bypassed. I do not know of any reason to rush this bill through on the first day of the session without giving members of the Committee on International Relations an opportunity to consider the bill.

I fully understand that the chairman had some difficulty in scheduling administration's witnesses, but that is true on almost any bill we have when we are dealing with high level administration officials. H.R. 2591 was referred solely to the Committee on International Relations on October 1 of last year. Despite my request, the committee has not held a single hearing on the bill. There has been no committee deliberation on it and no markup.

S. 1564 was passed by the Senate on November 13th, 1997 and was referred to the committee. It is substantially the same as the bill authored by the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH] and also did not have any consideration by the House Committee on International Relations. So the committee is taking a bill with a very worthy purpose, handed to us by an outside group and urging its approval without a serious examination of it.

Now, there's nothing wrong or unusual about that, in looking to outside groups for information and advice, but it is not responsible for the Congress——

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAMILTON. I would like to finish my statement, if I may.

Mr. LEACH. The gentleman has the time, of course.

Mr. HAMILTON. But, yes, under my reservation of objection, I will be happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LEACH. I would not be so timorous to ask the gentleman to yield except on a point of fact.

This bill was written exclusively by the chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services. No outside group presented this bill or suggested the bill prior to its introduction. I state that to the gentleman as a matter of fact and would request a correction.

Mr. HAMILTON. I am quite willing to accept the word of the gentleman from Iowa because I have great confidence in his word.

Mr. LEACH. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation of objection, there is nothing wrong to looking to outside groups for information and advice, but what is not responsible is for the Congress to pass a bill without independently considering the various questions that it raises. The members of the committee have not had an opportunity to study this bill adequately. We do not have any idea of the implications and its dimensions.

This measure begins a new Federal program. Thirty million dollars is authorized for contributions to charitable organizations to assist survivors of the Holocaust but, in my mind at least, many questions abound: Where is the money coming from? Is a new appropriation going to be required? What programs, if any, will be cut in order to allocate the funds for this program? Who determines who gets what relief? Which victims will be compensated, which victims will not be compensated? Will richer beneficiaries get the same amount as poorer beneficiaries? Is this a one-shot deal or the beginning of a permanent program with annual appropriations?

I do not think we are doing our job as a committee and I do not think we are doing our job as a Congress if we cannot delve into such questions.

S. 1564 directs the President to direct his representative to seek and vote for an agreement to make contributions to a reparation fund. My understanding is that creation of such a fund was announced in December 1997. At the very least this inaccuracy would have been corrected at a committee markup.

I understand that there is pressure to act on this bill. It has the broad support of the Congress, it has my support as its stands, but I think we could have done a better job. It has the support of the administration. We all want to do the right thing to help the victims of the Holocaust but the process that we are following is flawed. The committee is not doing its job. The Congress is not in a position to do its job as an institution. I believe a better process would result in a better draft of the bill.

I ardently hope that the Committee on International Relations' first action this session, waiving jurisdiction, does not mark a trend for the upcoming session. I hope that on measures of important policy issues before the Committee on International Relations during the session, including remaining issues related to Holocaust restitution, we will have timely and balanced consideration in the committee.

I understand there are other Members who may want to speak, and I am happy to yield at this point to the proponents of the bill.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAMILTON. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the distinguished chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, in response to the gentleman's concern about waiving jurisdiction, as the gentleman knows we attempted to hold a hearing on this issue last year, at the end of last year. We were unable to because the witness who was to come before us had to cancel his appearance because the Secretary of State was testifying elsewhere on the Hill and the department frowns on having its officers testify on the same day a Secretary is testifying. We tried to accommodate the witness and he was not able to rearrange his schedule.

I understand that, in any event, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, as the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH] will testify, held a hearing on this issue in June of 1997, as well as one hearing in a prior Congress in December of 1996. Meanwhile, the Senate passed this measure. It is not a controversial measure, and if we can arrange for the appropriate witnesses to appear, we will certainly conduct a hearing to dig into the issues that the gentleman is raising with regard to the financing.

There are other bills and resolutions on this general subject pending before our committee, but the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services and I thought that given the fact that survivors are passing away every day while awaiting satisfaction of just claims, that we should move the bill as expeditiously as possible.

I do appreciate my colleague's willingness to allow the bill to move forward at this time and we certainly will try to accommodate his concerns in the coming weeks in this new session.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation of objection, I will be happy to yield to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, let me first explain some of the background of this bill to my distinguished friend, with whom I have had talks prior to this session and with whose staff we have consulted.

This bill is the result of several extensive hearings in the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services that will be followed up by more hearings in the next several weeks. The bill, as I would repeat again, was introduced after these hearings at the exclusive instigation of the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services. And I would say to my distinguished friend, the implication of outside group pressure is not a very appropriate one.

I would also say that one of the backgrounds for trying to push the bill at the very end of the last session related, A, to the fact that the Senate passed it in virtual identical form to the bill that my distinguished colleague the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and I introduced with broad bipartisan support, including the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE], the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES], another gentleman from Illinois [Mr. JACKSON]; and on the Republican side the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. KELLY].

This bill caught the so-called groups that the gentleman implies are behind it by surprise. It was exclusively based upon hearings before the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, and the timing related to the fact that international negotiations were to commence in December to deal with this subject matter calling for international support. And we wanted to make it clear that the United States would be a participant so that our participation could help leverage substantial foreign support.

□ 1300

Now, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) indicates that he believes the bill is faultily crafted in a timing sense at this point in time because certain negotiations have occurred.

The gentleman is partially but not fully correct. The decision that was made in the negotiations in December opened up the prospect of further international support, but no agreement has been made on what support individual countries will make. So the bill, in its verbiage, is entirely appropriate and entirely accurate.

Now let me go back a little bit about what stands behind the bill. This bill was initially introduced in the House of Representatives. It would provide $25 million as a U.S. contribution to the organizations serving survivors of the Holocaust and an additional $5 million for archival research to be managed by the Holocaust Museum.

The second aspect, the additional $5 million for the Holocaust Museum, came from the United States Senate, one that I believe is thoroughly appropriate. Our bill only referenced the Holocaust Museum without a designated number. But I believe it is appropriate, as the Senate has done, to put in a precise number.

The bill would also declare the sense of Congress that all governments take appropriate actions to ensure that artwork seized or extorted by the Nazis or by the Soviets be returned to their original owners or heirs. I think that is an entirely appropriate position for the United States Government to take and this Congress in particular. After all, the Holocaust was the greatest crime in history; and I believe this bill is something that provides a material redress and is entirely appropriate.

But, most of all, this bill is a reminder that the past must never be forgotten. Sometimes issues of the past are more controversial than issues of the present; and sometimes there is nothing more difficult than to judge the past, to establish what might be described as retrospective justice.

It must be understood that history doesn't have a statute of limitations. People cannot be allowed to disappear from the earth without tracks, without moral if not monetary restitution. And when one really thinks it through, one has to recognize that one of the impelling aspects of the Holocaust was avarice. This bill says, in effect, that even at a very late moment in time avarice will not be rewarded.

Finally, let me indicate to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), because he has raised some questions that I believe are specifically answered in the legislative language, this bill is not a new appropriation. It is a redirection of formerly appropriated funds. There are no ongoing implications of funding. It is entirely designed to assist the Department of State in its current ongoing activities.

It has the strong support of the administration; and here I want to tip my hat to the Under Secretary of State, Stuart Eizenstat, for his leadership on this issue, which I think has been thoroughly appropriate.

Finally, let me also say as strongly as I can to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), for whom I have no higher respect of anyone in this body, that the hearing record established in the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services is extensive and extraordinary.

I had not, in working on the legislation, intended that the resources be derived from the State Department budget. But that is what the administration recommended; and, therefore, that is the way this bill is designed.

But I would assure the gentleman that the hearing record is extensive, it is compelling, and it is extraordinary. I recognize that the gentleman has certain concerns. I also recognize that the gentleman is supportive, and for that I am very appreciative.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, may I simply say to my good friends, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, that I don't mean to be too critical here of their conduct. I understand that they operate under considerable pressures, particularly with an important bill like this is.

I do think my position with regard to process here is entirely correct. This is an important bill. It does require a substantial authorization. It could very well be an authorization that will be repeated in the years ahead.

Very few members of this institution know very much about this bill. The House Committee on International Relations was the committee of jurisdiction, not the Committee on Banking and Financial Services. We did not have hearings on it. We did not have any discussions on it. It simply comes to the floor.

I do not see how any Member can defend that kind of a process for an important bill, and I rise only on the point of process and that is all.

Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

As I assured the gentleman before, we will conduct whatever hearings are needed to fully explain the issues that the gentleman has raised.

I wanted to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for bringing the measure before us. He endeavored to do this at the end of the last session, and because of the business at hand we were not able to do it at that time.

I rise in strong support of this measure; and I wanted to take the opportunity to commend our colleague, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), for his leadership on this important issue. As chairman of our Committee on Banking and Financial Services and as senior member of our House Committee on International Relations, Chairman LEACH expended a great deal of effort to make certain that justice would be achieved for victims whose assets were confiscated by the Nazis and looked into the issue extensively.

The heinous crimes conducted by the Nazis decades ago still leave their mark today as elderly survivors struggle around the world to meet even their most basic needs and as heirs discover that valued family possessions, such as paintings, are hanging today in museums and private homes around the globe.

The Holocaust Victims Redress Act recognizes that there are numerous Jewish victims of the Holocaust who still remain uncompensated and who are in dire financial circumstances in their twilight years. Accordingly, the Leach bill authorizes $25 million to support restitution efforts to survivors residing in our Nation and elsewhere; and an additional $5 million is authorized to the Holocaust Memorial Museum to be distributed for archive value research to assist in the resolution of assets that were looted or extorted from the victims of the Holocaust.

Our Nation, under Secretary Eizenstat's initiative, is pressing 15 claimant nations for the speedy distribution of nearly six metric tons of gold still held by the Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold. This is the body established by France, by Great Britain and our Nation at the end of World War II to return gold looted by Nazi Germany to the central banks of nations occupied during the war by Germany.

Our Nation asks that these nations contribute a substantial portion of any distribution they received to Holocaust survivors in recognition of the recently documented fact that this gold includes gold stolen from the individual victims in the Holocaust. This measure also expresses a sense of Congress that all governments should undertake in

good faith to facilitate the return of private and public properties, such as works of art, to the rightful owners in cases where assets were confiscated during the Holocaust and where there is reasonable proof that the claimant is the rightful owner.

This sense of the Congress resolution builds on the London Conference on Nazi Gold held in December, since the Holocaust Museum announced in London that it will sponsor a follow-on conference on looted artwork and other assets early this summer.

Having recently visited Poland with some of my colleagues, I became familiar with Poland's efforts to speed up the restitution of Jewish communal properties. We commend the Polish government for their recent legislation and hope that those funds might be used to clarify issues related to the ownership of those properties, and we hope other countries will follow suit.

Accordingly, the legislation before us will be of great assistance in helping our Nation to move the issue of asset restitution forward and is most worthy of our consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in support of this measure.

I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) for yielding me the time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise on the reservation of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) not because I do not support the bill. In fact, I do support the bill and compliment the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) on his efforts to put this legislation together. I had, however, hoped to offer an amendment to it in order to address an issue of equal gravity to Holocaust survivors. That is the issue of unpaid life insurance policies from the Holocaust.

Recently, I received a letter from a constituent outlining his attempt to collect on the life insurance policy owed to his father who was killed by the Nazis. He was given $30 for the life of his father and has never heard from the insurance company again. Because of this story and others like it and the fact that there were over 1.3 million policies sold to Germans at the time, Congress must act to right this wrong.

In light of the circumstances under which the bill is being considered, I will now introduce legislation today requiring European insurance companies to report to the Attorney General the names of anyone they insured who is listed on either the Holocaust Museum's Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors or on Yad Veshem's Hall of Names in Jerusalem.

Had the opportunity been presented, I would have offered this, the Comprehensive Holocaust Accountability in Insurance Measure, as an answer to the legislation presently before us. Of course, I am very pleased that the House is able to act quickly at the beginning of this session to redress victims of the Holocaust. They have awaited reparations for so long, and this measure is a step in the right direction. I only wish that it had been a larger step for victims of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following:

JANUARY 21, 1998.

U.S. Congressman MARK FOLEY

DEAR SIR: I read in the Palm Beach Post of 1/21/98 that you are going after the insurance crooks such as the German Allianz.

Many years ago (it must be maybe 30 years ago—or somewhat less) I received a letter from Allianz where they had found that my father had a life insurance with them—and they were settling with me as his heir.

They sent me the princely sum of about 20 to 30 dollars and said that the claim thus was settled.

I never heard from them again and at the time I felt it was hopeless to go any further.

Anyhow in the files of Allianz there is definitely the name of (my father who was murdered by the Nazis) and my name.

Thank you.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAMILTON. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) for yielding.

First, let me say, the gentleman has discussed this issue with me; and I would say the gentleman's leadership is very appreciated. It is the gentleman from Iowa's belief that the insurance issue is much larger than the banking issue, and we will be holding a hearing on February 12 on this issue. I believe it is a very important subject matter of a little different dimension and direction, and we intend to pursue legislation in this arena, and I believe it is very important that we do so.

I would only ask the indulgence of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) to make a point, though, that I think has been misunderstood by the other side. That is, not only was this bill introduced at the exclusive direction of the chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services without any prior input from any source, the pressure to bring it to the floor entirely emanates from the chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, partly because of disappointment that it was not brought just as the House came to adjournment because of the timing matters that occurred then. And the leadership agreed that they would bring it up as the first item of this session, which I think is very important, and partly because it is the view of the gentleman from Iowa that, in a negotiating circumstance, it is very important to press forward.

I raise this as profoundly as I can because the implications on this House floor that there are pressures from outside groups is inappropriate.

This bill is a statement of the moral direction of the House of Representatives as a reflection of the American people, not of any particular group.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, may I simply say that we just had an example of why this bill should go through the regular process. A Member of this institution wanted to offer an amendment to it. He is excluded from doing so.

Now, that is the name of my objection here. We have orderly processes in this House. We ought to follow them.

A Member on the other side of the aisle was excluded from offering an amendment. Why? Because my colleague wanted to push this thing through on unanimous consent today. That is not the way the House of Representatives should do business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

□ 1315

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Indiana for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly am sympathetic to the bill, but I think the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) does make a valid point about committees and committee process and committee hearings.

I want to add my voice in support of the underlying legislation. For several months now I have been working on legislation which would force insurance companies that have not paid Holocaust victims what they are supposed to be paid, to force them to do so. I think one of the most obscene things that has come to light during this whole process has been the role of the insurance companies in stonewalling and not paying Holocaust victims and their families and descendants what is rightfully due to them. So I think it is very, very important in this Congress that we focus on this issue and that we move on this issue.

I am a member of the Committee on Commerce, and the bill will come through the Committee on Commerce in terms of the bill forcing insurance companies. I already have several cosponsors, and will drop the bill in today. I am working with the Holocaust Museum and the people of the Holocaust Museum on this bill. I think that it is very, very important that we move swiftly on the bill that I am dropping in today, which has bipartisan support.

I wanted to make this comment because I think this issue is very, very important. I am very sympathetic to the objections of my friend, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), and I hope we can resolve this so this very important legislation, as well as my legislation, gets passed very, very

soon, so that the victims of the Holocaust and their descendants will at least get what is rightfully due them.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, before I withdraw my reservation, may I say I was pleased to have the assurance of the two chairmen, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that there will be further hearings on the bill. I thank them for that, and look forward to cooperating with them in that regard.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act, the result of a series of hearings in the House Banking Committee, is a virtual carbon copy of a bill introduced by Chairman GILMAN and myself in the previous session. There are a number of co-sponsors, including Members from both sides of the aisle: Congressmen JOHN LAFALCE, KEN BENTSEN, MARTIN FROST, SIDNEY YATES, JESSE JACKSON, Jr., LUIS GUTIERREZ, JON FOX, MICHAEL MCNULTY, JIM SAXTON, JAMES MCGOVERN, BARNEY FRANK, BRAD SHERMAN, and MARK FOLEY; and Congresswomen CONNIE MORELLA, CAROLYN MALONEY, and SUE KELLY.

The bill authorizes up to $25 million as a U.S. contribution to organizations serving survivors of the Holocaust and an additional $5 million for archival research, to be managed by the Holocaust Museum, to assist in the restitution of assets looted or extorted from Holocaust victims by the Nazis. It would also declare the sense of Congress that all governments take appropriate action to ensure that artworks confiscated by the Nazis, or by the Soviets, be returned to their original owners or their heirs.

The Holocaust was the greatest crime in human history. This measure will provide some material redress for inadequate restitution of assets seized by the American Government during World War II which belonged to Holocaust victims.

But most of all, this measure is a reminder the past must never be forgotten and that it is often more controversial than issues of the present.

While little is more difficult than to judge the past, to establish what in this case must be called retrospective justice, it must be understood that history does not have a statute of limitations. People cannot be allowed to disappear from earth without tracks, without moral if not monetary restitution.

The genesis for this proposal dates back to hearings which the Committee on Banking and Financial Services has held since December 1996, chronicling how the Nazis looted gold from the central banks of Europe as well as from individual Holocaust victims.

Following World War II, the Tripartite Gold Commission, consisting of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, was created to oversee the recovery and return of Nazi-looted gold to the countries from which it was stolen. Most of the gold recovered during that period was long ago returned to claimant countries. However, a small portion of that gold remains to be distributed. The amount of gold in TGC custody, amounting to six metric tons, is worth anywhere from $50 million to $70 million depending on the price of gold at a given time. Fifteen nations hold claim to some portion of that gold.

The case for speedy final distribution of the remaining gold pool to Holocaust survivors is compelling. The moral case for such a distribution was strengthened by the horrific revelation in a May 1997 report from Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat that Nazi Germany co-mingled victim gold, taken from the personal property of Holocaust victims, including their dental fillings, with monetary gold, resmelting it into gold bars which the Nazis traded for hard currency to finance the war effort.

This bill would put the Congress on record in strong support of the State Department's appeal to claimant nations to contribute their TGC gold to Holocaust survivors and strengthen the Department's hand in seeking this goal by authorizing the President to commit the United States to a voluntary donation of up to $25 million for this purpose. A voluntary contribution on our part would go a long way in facilitating a similar gesture of generosity from others who may be claimants of the gold pool or who may have reason to provide redress for actions taken during the dark night of the human soul we call the Holocaust.

I had hoped that the House would act on this bill at the end of the last session so the U.S. delegation attending an international conference on Nazi-looted gold in London in December could report that the United States had agreed to make a contribution to this fund. Nevertheless, I am pleased that the House is taking up the bill today at the first opportunity of this session.

I might add that a contribution of this nature by the United States would also serve as an act of conscience on the part of this nation. As the bill indicates in the findings, there was an unknown quantity of heirless assets of Holocaust victims in the United States after World War II. A 1941 census of foreign assets in the United States identified $198 million in German-owned assets in the United States as well as another $1.2 billion in Swiss assets. Assets inventoried in the census included bank accounts, securities, trusts, and other items. In the years following World War II, Congress recognized that some of the assets held in the United States may have in fact belonged to Jewish victims of the Holocaust who had sent their assets abroad for safekeeping.

Given this circumstance, Congress authorized up to $3 million in claims for such heirless assets to be awarded to a successor organization to provide relief and rehabilitation for needy survivors. However, the political difficulties associated with such a commitment led Congress ultimately to settle on a $500,000 contribution. Although the documentary record on asset ownership remains sparse, it is likely that heirless assets in the United States were worth much more than the 1962 settlement figure.

A precise accounting of claims will remain unknowable, but the fact that the United States committed itself to such a modest amount in settlement for victim claims provides justification for the United States to make an inflation-adjusted contribution today for victim funds mingled with Nazi assets located in and seized by the United States during the war.

In testimony before our committee last year, Under Secretary Eizenstat urged that a better accounting be made for the fate of heirless assets in banks in the United States, and that the issue of World War II-era insurance policies, securities, and artwork also be examined. To help answer these questions, the legislation would direct $5 million to the United States Holocaust Museum for archival research to assist in the restitution of assets of all types looted or extorted from Holocaust victims, and activities that would support Holocaust remembrance and education activities.

I am pleased to report that the London conference mentioned earlier, Under Secretary of State Eizenstat announced that the United States would host a second international conference in 1998 to look further into the issue of assets looted by the Nazis. In that context, it is important to note that the second title of the bill deals with Nazi-looted art which is expected to be among the topics to be discussed at the next conference.

A witness at the Banking Committee's hearing last June noted that, "The twelve years of the Nazi era mark the greatest displacement of art in history." Under international legal principles dating back to the Hague Convention of 1907, pillaging during war is forbidden as is the seizure of works of art. In defiance of international standards, the Nazis looted valuable works of art from their own citizens and institutions as well as from people and institutions in France and Holland and other occupied countries. This grand theft of art helped the Nazis finance their war. Avarice served as an incentive to genocide with the ultimate in governmental censorship being reflected in the Aryan supremacist notion that certain modern art was degenerate and thus disposable.

The Nazis purged state museums of impressionist, abstract, expressionist, and religious art as well as art they deemed to be politically or racially incorrect. Private Jewish art collections in Germany and Nazi-occupied countries were confiscated while others were extorted from their owners. Still others were exchanged by their owners for exit permits to flee the country. As the Nazis sold works of art for hard currency to finance the war, many artworks disappeared into the international marketplace. Efforts following the war to return the looted art to original owners were successful to a degree, but to this day many items remain lost to their original owners and heirs.

It is interesting to note that when the French Vichy government tried to object on international legal grounds to Nazi confiscation of art owned by Jewish citizens in France, the Germans responded that such individuals (including those who were sent to concentration camps) had been declared by French authorities no longer to be citizens. Hence, the Nazis claimed that the 1907 Hague Convention, which prohibits the confiscation of assets from citizens in occupied countries, did not apply.

This reasoning cannot be tolerated by civilized people, and one purpose of the legislation before us today is to underline that the restitution of these works of art to their rightful owners is required by international law, as spelled out in the 1907 Hague Convention. The return of war booty ought to be a goal of civilized nations even at this late date, long after the end of World War II. For that reason, I have included in the legislation a sense of Congress urging all governments to take appropriate actions to achieve this end.

The Holocaust may have been a war within a war—one fought against defined individuals and civilized values—but it was an integral part of the larger world war among states. Hence, the international principles prohibiting the theft of art and private property during wartime should be applied with equal rigor in instances of genocidal war within a country's borders or conquered territory.

In closing, I would like to announce that the Committee on Banking and Financial Services will be holding its third hearing on the subject of Nazi-looted gold, dormant bank accounts in Switzerland, and other assets taken from victims of the Holocaust on February 12. At that time, the Committee plans to hear testimony from Under Secretary Eizenstat, Swiss Ambassador Thomas Borer, and two panels of witnesses discussing the topics of looted art and insurance.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge the unanimous adoption of S. 1564. Thank you.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I want to express my strong support for the passage of this legislation.

Let me say at the outset that I share the concerns which were raised by the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, Mr. HAMILTON, about the inappropriate way in which this bill comes to the floor of the House today. We should have held hearings, and we should have had proper consideration of this legislation in the Committee. There is not such urgency in the adoption of this legislation that we could not have followed regular procedures in the consideration of this bill.

Having said that, however, Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate my strong support for S. 1564—the Holocaust Victims Redress Act. I want to thank my dear friend, Congressman JIM LEACH, the Chairman of the Banking Committee, who introduced a similar bill in the House of Representatives and who has shown great sympathy for this issue. I also want to thank my dear friend, Congressman BEN GILMAN, the Chairman of the International Relations Committee, for his efforts and support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act directs that the United States Government support the contribution of all or of a substantial portion of the gold remaining under the control of the Tripartite Gold Commission to charitable organizations to assist survivors of the Holocaust. It also authorizes the President to obligate up to $30 million for such distribution. It authorizes appropriations for archival research to assist in the restitution of assets looted from Holocaust victims and for other activities to further Holocaust remembrance and education. The legislation urges efforts to facilitate the return of private and public property—primarily works of art—which were seized during the period of Nazi rule to the rightful owners in cases where the ownership can be established.

Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that we take the action proposed in this legislation. Thousands and thousands of the victims of Nazi terror suffered the destruction of their lives, the murder of their family members, and debilitating illnesses resulting from their unbelievable hardships. It is only appropriate that we acknowledge this suffering and take these modest steps to assist the victims.

The Administration has indicated its support for the approach that this legislation takes. The United States Government recognizes that a portion of the gold looted by the Nazis contained a significant amount of gold stolen or coerced from victims of the Holocaust. I am delighted that the Administration favors the proposal that the remaining gold, or most of it, be contributed to the "Special Persecutee Relief Fund" which was announced in December 1997, and I welcome the positive reaction from many of the potential donors to this fund. I do hope, Mr. Speaker, that the neutral countries who received Nazi gold during the course of World War II will also make generous contributions to this fund. It is most appropriate in view of the benefits they enjoyed as a result of the Nazi gold that was moved to their countries during the war.

I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the Administration has shown United States leadership by indicating our intention to participate in this fund with a contribution of up to $25 million. This should be an incentive for countries which have claims under the Tripartite Gold Commission and countries which were neutral in World War II to join in making significant contributions to this fund. Our contribution is indeed a modest amount—and I hope that our participation will increase—but I do hope that it will encourage others.

Mr. Speaker, no amount of monetary reparation and no amount of recognition or expressions of sorrow can ever compensate for the unspeakable suffering that the victims of the Holocaust have endured. It is important, however, that we make this gesture of recognition—regardless of how small it is in the face of the enormity of the injustice against these victims.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1564

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Holocaust Victims Redress Act".

TITLE I—HEIRLESS ASSETS

SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Among the $198,000,000 in German assets located in the United States and seized by the United States Government in World War II were believed to be bank accounts, trusts, securities, or other assets belonging to Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

(2) Among an estimated $1,200,000,000 in assets of Swiss nationals and institutions which were frozen by the United States Government during World War II (including over $400,000,000 in bank deposits) were assets whose beneficial owners were believed to include victims of the Holocaust.

(3) In the aftermath of the war, the Congress recognized that some of the victims of the Holocaust whose assets were among those seized or frozen during the war might not have any legal heirs, and legislation was enacted to authorize the transfer of up to $3,000,000 of such assets to organizations dedicated to providing relief and rehabilitation for survivors of the Holocaust.

(4) Although the Congress and the Administration authorized the transfer of such amount to the relief organizations referred to in paragraph (3), the enormous administrative difficulties and cost involved in proving legal ownership of such assets, directly or beneficially, by victims of the Holocaust, and proving the existence or absence of heirs of such victims, led the Congress in 1962 to agree to a lump-sum settlement and to provide $500,000 for the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization of New York, such sum amounting to 1/6th of the authorized maximum level of "heirless" assets to be transferred.

(5) In June of 1997, a representative of the Secretary of State, in testimony before the Congress, urged the reconsideration of the limited $500,000 settlement.

(6) While a precisely accurate accounting of "heirless" assets may be impossible, good conscience warrants the recognition that the victims of the Holocaust have a compelling moral claim to the unrestituted portion of assets referred to in paragraph (3).

(7) Furthermore, leadership by the United States in meeting obligations to Holocaust victims would strengthen—

(A) the efforts of the United States to press for the speedy distribution of the remaining nearly 6 metric tons of gold still held by the Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold (the body established by France, Great Britain, and the United States at the end of World War II to return gold looted by Nazi Germany to the central banks of countries occupied by Germany during the war); and

(B) the appeals by the United States to the 15 nations claiming a portion of such gold to contribute a substantial portion of any such distribution to Holocaust survivors in recognition of the recently documented fact that the gold held by the Commission includes gold stolen from individual victims of the Holocaust.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To provide a measure of justice to survivors of the Holocaust all around the world while they are still alive.

(2) To authorize the appropriation of an amount which is at least equal to the present value of the difference between the amount which was authorized to be transferred to successor organizations to compensate for assets in the United States of heirless victims of the Holocaust and the amount actually paid in 1962 to the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization of New York for that purpose.

(3) To facilitate efforts by the United States to seek an agreement whereby nations with claims against gold held by the Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold would contribute all, or a substantial portion, of that gold to charitable organizations to assist survivors of the Holocaust.

SEC. 102. DISTRIBUTIONS BY THE TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSION.

(a) DIRECTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT.—The President shall direct the commissioner representing the United States on the Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold, established pursuant to Part III of the Paris Agreement on Reparation, to seek and vote for a timely agreement under

which all signatories to the Paris Agreement on Reparation, with claims against the monetary gold pool in the jurisdiction of such Commission, contribute all, or a substantial portion, of such gold to charitable organizations to assist survivors of the Holocaust.

(b) AUTHORITY TO OBLIGATE THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From funds otherwise unobligated in the Treasury of the United States, the President is authorized to obligate subject to paragraph (2) an amount not to exceed $30,000,000 for distribution in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).

(2) CONFORMANCE WITH BUDGET ACT REQUIREMENT.—Any budget authority contained in paragraph (1) shall be effective only to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

SEC. 103. FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000, not to exceed a total of $25,000,000 for all such fiscal years, for distribution to organizations as may be specified in any agreement concluded pursuant to section 102.

(b) ARCHIVAL RESEARCH.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President $5,000,000 for archival research and translation services to assist in the restitution of assets looted or extorted from victims of the Holocaust and such other activities that would further Holocaust remembrance and education.

TITLE II—WORKS OF ART

SEC. 201. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Established pre-World War II principles of international law, as enunciated in Articles 47 and 56 of the Regulations annexed to the 1907 Hague Convention (IV) Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, prohibited pillage and the seizure of works of art.

(2) In the years since World War II, international sanctions against confiscation of works of art have been amplified through such conventions as the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which forbids the illegal export of art work and calls for its earliest possible restitution to its rightful owner.

(3) In defiance of the 1907 Hague Convention, the Nazis extorted and looted art from individuals and institutions in countries it occupied during World War II and used such booty to help finance their war of aggression.

(4) The Nazis' policy of looting art was a critical element and incentive in their campaign of genocide against individuals of Jewish and other religious and cultural heritage and, in this context, the Holocaust, while standing as a civil war against defined individuals and civilized values, must be considered a fundamental aspect of the world war unleashed on the continent.

(5) Hence, the same international legal principles applied among states should be applied to art and other assets stolen from victims of the Holocaust.

(6) In the aftermath of the war, art and other assets were transferred from territory previously controlled by the Nazis to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, much of which has not been returned to rightful owners.

SEC. 202. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING RESTITUTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, SUCH AS WORKS OF ART.

It is the sense of the Congress that consistent with the 1907 Hague Convention, all governments should undertake good faith efforts to facilitate the return of private and public property, such as works of art, to the rightful owners in cases where assets were confiscated from the claimant during the period of Nazi rule and there is reasonable proof that the claimant is the rightful owner.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1564, the Senate bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HON. SONNY BONO, REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 338) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 338

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Sonny Bono, a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the dean of the California Congressional delegation, is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I was awakened in the middle of the night during the recess. I want to share with my colleagues that I was struggling in my subconscious, attempting to put together words that were of condolence to my colleague the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] regarding the recent tragic loss in his family, only to be awakened by a telephone call from a reporter, Jim Specht, who writes for a number of newspapers in our region, Jim told me of the tragic accident that led to the death of our friend and colleague, SONNY BONO.

To say the least, we were all shocked by this development. SONNY BONO is one of those very, very unusual people you meet very rarely in public life or in life in general.

SONNY is survived by his oldest children, Christy and Chastity, and by his lovely wife Mary and their children, Chesare, who is 9 years of age, about to be 10, and Chianna, who is 6.

During the time he was with us, SONNY demonstrated to all of us that he is one of the most unusual characters you could ever meet. But by way of background, SONNY BONO came to California when he was 7 years old and moved to Los Angeles. Following high school he got his first job, that of being a meat truck driver. I think we all know that his heart lay in the entertainment business. In those early days he was developing his skills as a music writer. Often on those trips around the city of Los Angeles making stops for his product purpose, he would also drop off at various locations various songs that he had developed.

SONNY's talent became very apparent to all the world when his then girlfriend, Cherilyn Sarkasian, and he made their first recording together, among a number of recordings that led to that show known as Sonny and Cher. Between 1971 and 1974, Sonny and Cher were among the great hits across the country. They had an impact upon young people of that age that is remembered by all.

Following that work, which eventually came to an end, the partnership came to an end, about 1974, SONNY went on with his business over a period of time. He then took the next step in terms of his most amazing career. In the early 1980s, he established what were to become known as Bono Restaurants, first in Los Angeles, then in Texas. I began to personally get to know SONNY when he opened such a restaurant in Palm Springs, California. At that time, the location of the restaurant was actually in my own district.

In Palm Springs, he quickly became known by anybody who enjoyed both the entertainment as well as the fun restaurant opportunity in Palm Springs. As he developed that process in Palm Springs, he found himself having some difficulty with local government regulations. It seems there was a conflict that arose over a sign that he needed for his restaurant. Local bureaucracy, he would suggest, was getting in the way. That kind of led to a minibattle that caused SONNY a different way, perhaps for the first time, to especially focus upon politics.

With that confrontation, when the local person resisted what he thought was sensible public policy, he indicated that maybe the best alternative for him was to run for office and become

that person's boss, SONNY wanted to make sure that sense was made out of local policy. With that, SONNY became the mayor of Palm Springs.

Known by all in Southern California in connection with that, after some time carrying forward that work, he ran for the U.S. Senate. I mention that, even though he was unsuccessful in the primary process, only by way of giving a preliminary hint of the quality and mix that is the character of SONNY BONO.

The person who won that primary, Bruce Hershenson, along with our colleague TOM CAMPBELL and SONNY all ran in that primary, Bruce eventually won the primary. But in spite of an intense process, SONNY and Bruce Hershenson developed a personal relationship that was as deep as any I have ever seen in public affairs. They were fast friends and loyal friends from that point to this day forward.

SONNY ran for the House of Representatives in 1994 when the seat became vacant, as our colleague Al McCandless decided to retire. With his election who will ever forget SONNY's early stay in the House. I wonder how many of those of you who are here with me today remember that event in which he was a guest during his first term at the annual press club dinner, a black tie affair. You know how we all love those black tie affairs.

SONNY was one of the speakers chosen that evening during his first term, and I remember very, very clearly SONNY's giving formal written remarks, from the start I could sense he was not particularly comfortable with them.

About halfway through the remarks, he turned, and it looked as though somebody was a little perplexed. He said, hey, you are trying to give me the hook, huh, an old slang line for people in the entertainment business to get you off the stage.

With that, Sonny threw aside his written remarks and began talking about his real feelings about his experience in the House. It is really amazing what developed. A half an hour late, he had these cynical press people rolling in the aisle.

SONNY BONO demonstrated his sense about the House and used his sense of humor ofttimes in times of critical circumstance to bring us together.

In our Conference, time and time again, he illustrated that his voice was exactly what was needed to provide the sort of oil that allows us to work together. He did that not only in our Conference, but also on both sides of the aisle as well.

SONNY served with us in the House as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary. He was very active in the war on drugs and demonstrated an ongoing and active interest in copyright law and intellectual property concerns.

You will hear a good deal today about his most important concern as it relates to the environment, for he has been the co-chairman of our task force dealing with the Salton Sea, which, as many of you may know, is the largest inland lake in the West. It clearly involves the most important environmental challenge that faces the United States insofar as the West is concerned.

SONNY also worked on the Committee on National Security and played a very big role in making sure that our Armed Forces have the quality and strength that are required for this country that now leads the free world.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from California, Mr. BROWN, is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I also appreciate very much what my colleague from California has said about SONNY BONO and giving some of his background before he came to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I recall fairly clearly my own first awareness of SONNY as a part of the duo of SONNY and Cher. I am not one normally given to spending a lot of time with popular entertainers, but I was struck by this couple who made a very great impression on me, and SONNY in particular, because I was not convinced that he had any obvious talents. But he did pass the critical test of being extremely successful and extremely popular, and one cannot quarrel with success.

Obviously, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), has already reported, he had talents that extended into a variety of fields.

I first became personally acquainted with him, of course, after he was elected to the Congress, and I observed his operations here on the floor. As with most new Members, it seemed to me he was not quite sure what he was doing much of the time, but he learned with great rapidity. I came to admire the way in which he grasped opportunities to participate in a variety of different issues and generally bring a high degree of common sense to the consideration of those issues.

As my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), has indicated, we became involved, those of us in what we call the Inland Empire region of Southern California, which includes the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial, we became involved as a group, all of the Members from that region, in efforts to achieve some remediation of the problems of the Salton Sea. I will not deal unduly on that at this point.

But we all recall the fact that in the Congress 3 or 4 years ago, the California delegation had somewhat of a reputation as being, shall we say, lacking in cohesiveness. Some of us became concerned with that problem and began to initiate steps to distinguish between those things which were worthy of lack of cohesiveness and those which really deserved cohesiveness.

□ 1330

In other words, we began to try and define those areas where it was appropriate for Congressmen in California to work together regardless of party, and those equally or more important areas where we needed to be divided on the basis of political principle. And we learned a number of lessons, and we began this process of working together, and my experience with SONNY and my appreciation for him began to rise as I had the opportunity to participate with him in these vital areas which were nonpartisan in their scope, but which related to the welfare of all of our constituents in our respective districts.

I will not belabor the details of this particularly, although I may come back to them a little bit later, but my last recollection of SONNY was in his office in Palm Springs where we had one of the meetings of our task force, we call it the Inland Empire Salton Sea Task Force, and SONNY of course is a cochairman of that task force, brought us together in his office to discuss at that point the impending visit of the Secretary of the Interior. I will tell my colleagues that SONNY's efforts as a cochairman of the task force were unique and very successful in focusing the attention of the Executive Branch on the need to take some action there.

He was the kind of a person who worked easily to bring people together, and I wish that trait were more common amongst our colleagues. I will always remember him as a gentleman, one who could bring us together, could bring about agreement with regard to critical issues, could identify critical problem areas and focus discussions on them in a way which is not too usual amongst the Members of Congress, and which I think will create a lasting monument to his work as an elected public official.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I have a statement covering an outline, a brief outline, of some of the services and contributions that SONNY BONO made as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, and I am going to ask that that be printed in the RECORD, but I have some remarks I would like to make that are more of a general nature than a specific recitation of his great contributions to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, contemplating the untimely death of our colleague and really our brother, SONNY BONO, forces us to confront the mystery of life and death. It makes us ask the question to which there is no answer in this lifetime: Why me, Lord? SONNY's impact on us was like a skyrocket. It was bright, it was beautiful, and very brief. He left us many examples of how we should understand our vocation as legislators, how we should treat each other as brothers and sisters and of the value of laughter and inner joy.

SONNY, in one brief lifetime, was a resounding success in 4 difficult careers: Songwriting, performing, mayor of an important city, and a Congressman. SONNY laughed often, he loved much, especially his wife, Mary, and his children. He won the respect and the affection of all who knew him. He appreciated beauty and he saw the good in others. He was an authentic free spirit. Among the many lessons we can draw from his example, the one most important to me are three words that his life said to every person, young or old, who has a burning desire to achieve. "Yes, you can."

SONNY, I know you are up there. Do not forget us, because we will never forget you.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow this House will remember in a memorial service the life and work of Representative SONNY BONO, who lost his life tragically in a skiing accident on January 5, 1998. As we convene to reflect on his remarkable life, I would like to recognize his achievements as a valued member of the House Judiciary Committee.

SONNY was not a lawyer, and yet he requested to become a member of the Judiciary Committee out of his concern for the issues entrusted to its jurisdiction. I was happy to recommend his placement on the Committee and I know that I speak for its entire membership when I say that his refreshing approach to legislation and his immediate contributions were appreciated on both sides of the aisle.

How SONNY became a Member of Congress is a classic American tale that should be studied by anyone interested in pursuing politics. Unable to cut through the municipal bureaucracy necessary to simply put a sign in front of his restaurant in Palm Springs, California, SONNY ran for Mayor to fix the problem himself. Elected twice to that position, Sonny succeeded in bringing government closer to the people and in bringing new revenue, including an International Film Festival, to his city and its surrounding areas. Elected to the 104th Congress in 1994, this ambitious freshman's first bill called for another initiative to bring government closer to the people: the appointment of a three-judge court panel, already used in Voting Rights Act and apportionment cases, to hear constitutional challenges to popular referenda voted upon by the entire population of a state. His reasoning was simple: when the citizens of a state vote directly on an issue that is important to their lives, and a direct majority speaks, one judge should not be able to delay the execution of the will of the people of an entire state for years. This sophisticated measure was aimed at addressing the legal aftermath of the affirmative action and immigration referenda in his home state.

SONNY BONO, the self-proclaimed non-lawyer, had to argue for this bill before a Judiciary Committee comprised of legally-trained members. He effectively laid out his case. SONNY's bill was reported to the full House by the Committee. Then, as a freshman, Representative BONO went to the floor of the House armed only with the logic of his arguments and convinced a majority of his colleagues to support passage of his bill.

Mr. Speaker, Congress can be a daunting institution for anyone to master. SONNY BONO, as a freshman, tackled a serious subject like judicial reform and made it his first effort at lawmaking. His legislation has been reintroduced this Congress and is pending before the Judiciary Committee as part of the Judicial Reform Act of this Congress.

His gifts reflected SONNY's diverse background as a songwriter, entertainer, business owner and Mayor. Those experiences gave him a unique perspective on issues as diverse as tax reform, immigration and intellectual property. As a member of the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, he worked hard to negotiate difficult legal solutions to problems facing the country as the Internet becomes a new means of distributing books, music, software, and movies. To Sonny, these were not just theories to be discussed, they were part of his life. He had the unique distinction of being someone who could understand the practical effects of legislation in this area.

Many of us attended the funeral service in SONNY's home of Palm Springs and saw, along with the rest of the country on their televisions, the hundreds of people who stood in line to pay their last respects to this unique and gifted citizen. SONNY will be remembered as an ambitious member of Congress who represented with distinction the interests of his district and the interests of our country. I join with my colleagues in remembering his political career, and send prayers of comfort to his wife Mary and his children Chesare, Chianna, Chastity and Christy. The people of the 46th District of California are fortunate to have had SONNY BONO as their Representative, and those of us who worked closely with him are fortunate to have experienced his refreshing candor and lighthearted wisdom.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I first met Sonny a little over 3 years ago. The only contact I had with Sonny prior to that is when I had dinner at his restaurant in Palm Springs, Sonny's. We both share that common background. My family was in the restaurant business for close to 45 years.

Three years ago we started this relationship and we became very close, both as friends and as colleagues. We represented most of Riverside County, shared a district line in many communities together. And he always just was so excellent at what he did in representing his constituents, and let me put a word in for his staff, especially Brian, his chief of staff, who did an excellent job for Sonny over the years; Frank, Beverly, the whole staff.

I would like to talk briefly about the last time I saw Sonny. I got a call on a Friday afternoon that, this was two weeks before Christmas, that Sonny wanted to have a meeting, and I am sure all of us were busy, all had things that we wanted to do that Sunday two weeks before Christmas, but Sonny wanted to meet with us, it was important. And we were all there: JERRY LEWIS, GEORGE BROWN, DUNCAN HUNTER, myself, SONNY, meeting in his office to talk about something he loved, something we all care about: The Salton Sea. And for two-and-a-half hours we sat in his office and we discussed ways we could finally resolve this issue that was important to every one of us. All of us have different backgrounds as both individuals or politicians, but Sonny could bring us all together, and I was thinking about that even while I was driving down on that Sunday that certainly we all cared about the Salton Sea, but we all cared about SONNY BONO, and I think that that was one of the reasons we were there, if not the most important thing, because Sonny was somebody you just liked to be around, somebody you wanted to be with.

So as we come back to Congress for the second half of the 105th, we are going to miss Sonny, those moments sitting back here in the Chamber when we needed that little lift, that joke, that smile. I think all of us will always remember Sonny's smile that we are just not going to have with us anymore. But we will have that memory, and we certainly have all of our prayers for Mary and the children, and we wish them Godspeed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 6 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. CALVERT's recitation of this meeting that brought us together in SONNY's office just before Christmas leads me to offer some additional comments about some of SONNY's unique contributions. He did have a background in business as well as a background as mayor of the City of Palm Springs, and in looking at this new challenge that faced him as a Member of Congress with a huge environmental problem that was getting worse in the form of the Salton Sea, SONNY made several what I considered to be unique contributions to pointing in the direction of solutions.

One of the first things that he did was to bring the group of us together with some consultants who had extensive experience with solving environmental problems and developing unique solutions to ecological and environmental conditions. One of these

was an internationally known designer who had worked all around the world and who brought to us the possibility that we could turn a declining Salton Sea, declining in an economic sense, into an asset by doing something that none of us had thought about before, and that was creating islands in the sea which could be developed for recreational and commercial purposes.

That was the kind of thing that SONNY easily perceived that I think was more difficult for the rest of us. We have, of course, some interest in the commercial development of casinos in southern California by Indian tribes, and SONNY established a dialogue with the local Indian tribes who did not have casinos, about the possibility of doing something of that sort. And lo and behold, the Indians were very interested. The idea of building islands which could be developed for recreational and commercial use is now one of the things which may lead to an economically viable solution to the problems of the Salton Sea.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BROWN of California. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman's discussion regarding the extension of that Sunday meeting where the five of us were together, which is the last time I was with SONNY as well, and the remarks of the gentleman caused me to say that indeed, Congressman BROWN and I have looked at the problems of the Salton Sea for some time, and especially my colleague from San Bernardino County has expressed long-standing concern, since he was born in Imperial County, which has a piece of the Salton Sea, but all of us somewhat frustrated over the years watching this incredible asset deteriorate the way it has.

At one time the annual commercial values surrounding the Salton Sea were about $100 million a year, and it has come to the point now with a combination of sewage that flows from the New River into the Salton Sea, the sewage that flows from Mexico adds to a tremendous problem. There is salt that flows from the agricultural activities that are adjacent to the Salton Sea. It is a reality that as of this moment what is a very, very important national asset and important environmental asset will all but be wasted and lost unless we take some action in a very short period of time. Maybe 5 years from now it will be too late.

Well, it was SONNY taking over the chairmanship of this task force and helping us all to focus in a special way that the gentleman from California reminds me has helped us crystallize a process here that I think will end up leading to a solution, maybe an expenditure of hundreds, not tens of millions, but hundreds of millions of dollars, but nonetheless, the result on the other end being a legacy to SONNY's service here that is most important.

Mr. BROWN of California. Well, now that the gentleman has made that comment, following SONNY's death there was a major economic conference convened in his district to examine the economic impacts of further decline or revival of the Salton Sea. It was conducted by the University of California based on an economic study that they had made, and this bore out what SONNY's instincts told him I think was possible. The detailed analysis showed that by reversing the decline of the Salton Sea and reviving it as an attractive environmental and recreational location, that this could, by the estimate of the economist who prepared the report, add to the cash flow of the region as much as $1 billion a year.

Now, this just astounded all of us who had looked at it, and I think SONNY, because of his own keen interest in recreational and economic development which he had demonstrated during his period as mayor, was not as surprised as some of the rest of us at what the potential was.

□ 1345

Essentially, what this report said, and we will be making a great deal of use of it, is that the economic potential of activities related to a living and vital Salton Sea is probably equivalent to that of the agriculture which is the world's most productive that surrounds the Salton Sea. This is something that we will probably be spending more time investigating and bringing forth, but we owe this to SONNY's instincts as much as anything else.

Mr. Speaker, I will, for the rest of my life, pay tribute to that instinct which gave us the hook, you might say, to create a realistic interest in a practical solution to the problems of this great body of water.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for having brought this to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have a prepared statement. I am going to do this from the seat of my pants. But that is probably the way SONNY would have done it, so I do not think I will violate any protocol as far as he is concerned.

The distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, has already indicated that SONNY was a valued member of the full committee. He and I sat on the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, and I came to know SONNY very well in that capacity.

Mr. Speaker, some recent weeks ago a group of mine from North Carolina from my congressional district asked me to bring a celebrity back home for a special event, and I asked them to identify a celebrity since we are not all celebrities here. They mentioned the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATT) and SONNY BONO, Steve and J.C. being football luminaries and SONNY the entertainer.

I said, "You all name who your favorite of the three would be." "We don't have a favorite," they said. The chairman finally came to me and said, "How about SONNY BONO? See if we can get him down here."

I went to SONNY, and he responded favorably, and he showed up in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the home of Charlie and Mary Elizabeth Irving back in November. A cold rain had fallen that entire afternoon, and SONNY was the headline. I say to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), he packed them in. They were standing outside as the soft rain fell listening to SONNY talk for 35 to 40 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, time and again he referred to himself as a simple man from the streets; but his words were warmly embraced not only by those exposed to the rain outside but by those who were protected from it inside.

My constituents who attended that event that night came to know him favorably even though he was only there for a little over 2 hours. In fact, that event, I say to the gentleman from California, may well have been his final public appearance.

Shortly after his untimely death, a syndicated columnist wrote an article that appeared in the largest daily in my district, the Greensboro News and Record, depicting SONNY as a clown, a buffoon, an inept, unqualified Congressman.

My constituents who visited with him that rainy night in November were hopping mad. They weren't angry; they were hopping mad about it. They called our offices down home and up here taking great umbrage in that article.

I responded to the article pretty clearly, refuting and disavowing the unkind and uncivil portrayal of SONNY BONO in her article. Mr. Speaker, I bet 125 to 150 people saw me within 24 hours after my article appeared. They were personally offended by the syndicated columnist's article.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COBLE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleague to yield at this point because he is raising a very, very important item that kind of goes to the heart of some of the mystery of SONNY BONO.

The early days of SONNY and Cher, it was very obvious that he was the butt of the jokes that were part of their routine. But what was not so obvious was that SONNY was the person who produced those programs. He wrote the

jokes and had the strength of character to see the value of his being the butt of the jokes.

The fool in this event involves the person who does not understand that strength and that quality. For SONNY BONO without any question, among other things, understood the value of humor properly placed and the strength it could have in terms of making a point and indeed in terms of bringing people together. It is a quality that is sorely missed by all of us but one that is absolutely needed in a body like the House of Representatives.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from California for his contribution. Indeed, that is true.

In fact, I told one of the columnists who called me for a comment about SONNY as a result of having shared membership on the Judiciary subcommittee I mentioned earlier. I said, oftentimes, he would give the appearance that he just fell off the turnip truck yesterday, but before you knew it the dart was released from his hand and the next time you saw the dart was when you were removing it from your own eye.

SONNY, as the gentleman from California just pointed out, had the ability to laugh at himself. It is too bad more of us on this Hill do not have that ability and do not practice it more often. He was the butt of the joke, and I think he enjoyed being the butt of the joke.

Mr. Speaker, as the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary previously said during his time on this matter, "SONNY, do not forget us," because, as Cher said at the funeral, she said, "He was the most unforgettable character I have ever met."

I can assure you, SONNY, we in this people's House will never forget you.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for this time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution recognizing the achievement our late colleague, SONNY BONO. His district is only about half an hour's drive from the district that I serve.

I speak straight from the heart when I say that SONNY was a dear friend. One thing I have learned over the last 5 years in Washington is how hard it is to find a true friend, someone who will stay with you during the good times and someone there during not so good times. SONNY was that kind of true friend.

SONNY had a unique ability of mixing humor with hard work. But we will remember him for making us laugh even during the stressful times. SONNY had a serious side too: Helping try to stop drug abuse, trying to improve food safety, trying to rescue the Salton Sea, on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, he used to joke about my "Southern accent." But I know now everyone, including SONNY, can understand me clearly when I say that, "We all miss you, SONNY."

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for leading this discussion and this tribute to SONNY BONO.

Obviously, the House lost a star over the break; and I am not referring to SONNY BONO being the star of the entertainment industry. He was a star around here. A star is, what, something in the sky that shines brightly; and SONNY always shined brightly.

His eyes sparkled, and he had a smile that was an uplifting smile. Whenever one felt down or was engaged in a controversy or got a little bit too involved and was a little bit captured by the moment and did not see the big picture, SONNY would always bring us down to earth and let us realize that, yes, what we are doing is important but not to be so enrapt by it that we lost sight of the values and the things that we really believe in.

SONNY was a star also in the entertainment industry and, as such, when he came here he became a champion of the rights of song writers and other people and for intellectual property issues, which is an issue that is close to my heart. SONNY went out, and he knew this area very well. He knew about song writers and writers and other creative people in our society and made that a point, to be their champion, because that was his area of expertise.

But, Mr. Speaker, his involvement and his activity went well beyond that area. SONNY was a patriot. SONNY ran for office because he wanted to make things better. He was someone from the entertainment industry and at times people would underestimate SONNY for that reason.

It was easy for me not to underestimate SONNY BONO, especially with the excuse of saying he is just a former rock and roll star or an actor, because I had already worked for someone who had been underestimated his entire political career by people who said, "Do not worry about him; he is just a former actor." But just like Ronald Reagan, SONNY BONO, yes, was a former actor, but he was a patriot who had a gut instinct about the people, people as individuals and people as the general public.

SONNY, perhaps one of the reasons he had this gut instinct, the same way Ronald Reagan had this gut instinct, was that he had not been in politics all of his life and he had been in contact with large numbers of people outside of the political context for a number of years. In that, he developed a relationship with people and knew them and appreciated them.

So SONNY contributed a lot during his short time period here. He contributed a great deal to the spirit of this body, and we will miss him. And, as has been expressed here today, I will personally miss him. SONNY was a man I respected deeply because he just knew people. He understood people. He understood the situations, and he was trying to do what he could for his country. What more can people ask than that?

So, with that, I believe in God and I believe in the hereafter and I believe SONNY, just like as has been expressed today, he is with us today and his spirit will be in this hall today with those people who serve in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, he shines brightly now, a star in the heavens overlooking the work that this body does to try to make this a better country to serve our people in the best way we can.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in expressing appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for taking this time and pursuing this very important resolution.

We were all very shocked and saddened, the world was shocked and saddened, with the tragedy that struck SONNY BONO, and I have got to say that I miss him. I think about him constantly. I think about Mary and the children, and I think about the impact that he had on so many of us.

Like most, I plead guilty to having been a little bit skeptical when this 1970s, long-haired, mustachioed, bell-bottomed singer-songwriter decided that he was going to come to the United States Congress, and I wondered what impact it would have.

Then I began to think about what it was that the founders envisaged for this institution. James Madison and Thomas Jefferson both talked about how disparate walks of life should be represented here in the people's House. And, to my knowledge, SONNY was, in fact, the only 1970s long-haired, mustachioed, bell-bottomed singer-songwriter to serve in the institution. So, actually, SONNY BONO's presence here was exactly what Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wanted.

One of the things that SONNY got very involved in, I remember his coming to me shortly after he was elected, and he said, "David, I want to sit down and work with you and the Speaker and others and put together a task force that will underscore the very important relationship that should exist

between the Congress and the Republican party and the entertainment industry, the music industry, the film industry, the television industry." He took a very, very important leadership role in pursuing that and did, I believe, a spectacular job.

We have gotten to the point where there is an understanding of how it is that the Republican party, quite frankly, really does embody many of those shared goals: An opposition to censorship and dealing with intellectual property violations, finding new markets for exports coming from the entertainment industry in California. So there are a lot of very important things that have been to this point unheralded that SONNY was intimately involved in.

□ 1400

I think that one of my colleagues probably said it best in a statement that I read in the paper when he said, many people run for Congress and come to Washington acting like they are very smart, and they are really not too bright. Well, SONNY BONO ran for Congress with this image of being less than intelligent, and it was obvious from his work and his life that he was an extraordinarily bright person.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss him greatly and join in sending condolences, as we all have time and time again, officially here from the floor of the Congress to all the members of SONNY BONO's family.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD), from beautiful downtown San Diego and other territory in California.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a real privilege to get up on the floor and speak of my friend SONNY BONO. SONNY really became a heavyweight in everything he did. I think he started out perceived as a lightweight in most everything he did, but before it was done, he rose to the point where he really became an influence, a significant influence, in everything he did.

In the entertainment industry he started out conceived as a lightweight and one that would never make an impact, and few people in the entertainment industry have made a greater impact than SONNY BONO has.

Then he went to the city of Palm Springs, was elected mayor. I served as a mayor. I know the impact that a mayor has on a community, and SONNY BONO, I am sure, was perceived initially that it was kind of a fluke that he would be elected. But before he was done, he made a powerful impact upon the quality of life in Palm Springs. It is a better place to live and work than it was before SONNY BONO served.

Then he came to Congress. In the Congress of the United States unquestionably he was perceived to be a lightweight when he came, but it did not take long until we recognized that he carried a powerful wallop and made a powerful influence for good in this institution. He made his mark. He has been a heavyweight in everything he has touched.

I admire him. I love him. I appreciated the work he did. I hope that we will keep him as a memorable Member of this body. It is a better place to serve because of SONNY BONO.

Often our leadership, when things were the most tense in our Conference meetings or in here on the floor of the House, they would ask SONNY BONO to take the edge off of things, to pull our delegation together and to bring us back to reality. And SONNY BONO had an incredible talent of using his wit and his ability with comedy to really bring us back to reality. And then he would always wrap up with a very serious point that he used his tremendous ability at wit to initiate.

I really appreciated that talent in SONNY BONO. He expressed it and used it several times, sometimes at the request of our leadership. I remember NEWT GINGRICH himself asked at one time SONNY BONO to take the edge off of the real tension that existed recently in our Conference. What a masterful job he did of bringing us right back to where we needed to be and accomplished exactly what we needed to be done.

He was a master at it. But he was a heavyweight in everything he did. He was a heavyweight legislator, make no mistake about it. We are going to miss him dearly in this body.

I truly pray for his family that they will recognize the great service that he has rendered both to the people of America through the entertainment industry, to the people of Palm Springs in his service there, to the people of America in his service here in the House of Representatives. He has truly made his mark in the world. We want to thank SONNY BONO.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) has 17½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) has ½-minute remaining.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

I appreciate that we as colleagues recognize that SONNY BONO belonged to America. SONNY BONO was known to me as a fellow colleague on the House Committee on the Judiciary. He sat on one side as a Republican, I on the other side as a Democrat. But my tribute to him comes more as a believer in his view and the way he carried himself, that he was an American who came here to serve his constituents and to serve this country.

I would remember sometimes he would add to the very serious deliberations that all of us would engage in with just a slight bit of humor. He would always say, I am not a lawyer, and I hear a lot of lawyers talking in this room. But whenever he would offer his insight, it brought about clarity and frankness that we all could appreciate.

He would draw down that pompousness that lawyers may tend to have by just saying to us, make it plain, let everybody understand it. And once we stood back from his challenge, we would say, he is right. What are we doing here other than making sense for the American people. I appreciated that in SONNY BONO, and I thank him.

I think all of us have got a fuller sense of appreciation of what we call changing careers. Everybody was something else when they came to this body. In fact, the Founding Fathers were always something else. They were farmers and artisans and lawyers and teachers. They came and spent a few months here and went back to their work. So what was wrong with being from the music industry and an entertainer? Nothing.

He brought us a different perspective, his sense of humor, but his commitment to the ideals of this country. So I would simply like to say, as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary where I got to know him most, thank you, SONNY BONO, for what you brought to this body. Thank you, SONNY BONO, for not being a lawyer and making just plain sense, for I do believe that your presence in this body and your membership on the House Committee on the Judiciary, which was extremely unique as a nonlawyer, added to the processes of government, reaffirmed the Constitution of the United States and as well reaffirmed your place in history.

God bless SONNY BONO and his family, and God bless America.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I know of no other requests for time on my side, but I know that there are on the other side. I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to add my voice to the chorus of voices singing the praises of our colleague SONNY BONO. I am not sure there is anything I can say that has not already been spoken. It was with deep sadness that I learned of SONNY's death. In life he was vibrant and witty, always quick to offer a smile, an amusing story or a simple word of encouragement.

Many of our colleagues have shared personal stories about working with

SONNY, but I would like to share something a member of my staff just today told me which illustrates why SONNY was loved in life and why he will be remembered in death.

My aide told me of an encounter he had with SONNY in 1995. He was walking between the House office buildings when he encountered SONNY in the street. When they passed, my staffer gave SONNY a puzzled look. SONNY, realizing that my staffer recognized him but maybe couldn't place the name with the face, turned around and said hello.

I tell this story simply because it is indicative of SONNY's engaging personality. In his long and immensely successful career, SONNY never got too big to remember those around him. He was at ease with Hollywood stars, politicians, his constituents and, of course, his wonderful family, and, most important, SONNY made those around him feel at ease.

SONNY visited my district for a Lincoln Day dinner last year and won the hearts of my constituents immediately. In fact, I had to get him out of town quickly because I was afraid they would ask him to move to Florida and challenge me.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, not to let stories of SONNY's generosity and kindheartedness overshadow his legislative accomplishments. He was a serious and effective legislator. He was an average guy in a business where we often take ourselves too seriously. He worked diligently on behalf of his constituents, and he entered the political arena for the right reasons. I repeat that. He entered the political arena for the right reasons, because he saw the problem, in his case, of business shackled by excessive regulations, and he figured the best way to solve that problem was to change it himself. He was a true citizen legislator.

I would like to close by sharing the impression SONNY has left on me. I am sure that those of you who attended his funeral and those who watched on television were struck not by the profound sadness of the affair, but by the joy and happiness which SONNY brought into people's lives. Mixed with the tears of joy and happy memories of SONNY was that unforgettable picture. Each time the television camera cut to a shot of SONNY's picture with that engaging smile, I could not help but laugh and think, that is SONNY. It was almost like he was there. And the thing is, SONNY is here with each and every one of us who had their opportunity to work with him and share a piece of his unique perspective on life.

So let me wish Mary and their wonderful children, Chesare and Chianna, God's blessings. They may have lost a father, but they have gained a House full of aunts and uncles. I think I speak on behalf of my colleagues by saying we will always be willing to help whenever it is needed.

SONNY, may you keep them smiling up there.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, my heart, along with the hearts of all of my colleagues, is with SONNY BONO at this time. I would like to submit my tribute for the RECORD. I am delighted that we are spending this time, and I am delighted we are having a memorial service that we will all attend tomorrow for this same purpose. This Chamber will deeply miss SONNY BONO.

Mr. Speaker, the world watched and mourned as SONNY BONO was laid to rest in Palm Springs a few weeks ago, and many of our colleagues here were among those present. It is a rare person whose passing causes us all to stop and reflect, and I want to take a moment and explain why, to my mind, SONNY BONO's life touched so many people.

I think it is because he was uniquely American. His life was proof of all the things that we believe make America special, and like Ronald Reagan before him, he did it all with the smile and the kind words that come from a man who is at peace with himself and who believes in what he is doing.

The more I got to know SONNY, the more respect I had for him, and the more I counted him as a friend. I don't think anyone in the last 10 years has made me laugh so hard as SONNY, but most importantly, he made all of us laugh at the right times. SONNY knew when things had become too serious, when we were all becoming swollen with our own importance, and when instead of anger and recriminations we needed laughter and unity. He had a unique ability to use humor to remind us of who we are and what we should be doing.

SONNY's parents wanted him to be a doctor. But he wanted to be in show business, so he went to Hollywood, and took a job that allowed him to pursue his dream—he drove a meat truck. What does this have to do with Hollywood and the music business? Nothing, except that by taking this job and delivering meat along Sunset Boulevard, SONNY was able to drop off recordings of his songs at record companies along his route. This was typical of SONNY's persistence in pursuing his goals—he always believed there was a way, whether it seemed obvious or not. And as we all know, he was right—his records became hits, and he ended up entertaining millions of Americans every week on national television. This kind of confidence is uniquely American—SONNY knew that there would be opportunities, and that all he needed was talent and determination to succeed.

When SONNY left show business, he went into the restaurant business, and in the private sector he learned a lesson that too many people in Washington, DC have either never learned or have forgotten—the government interferes far too much into the private lives of citizens. As a businessman, SONNY found that government thought it could tell him what kind of a sign he could put on his restaurant.

Unfortunately, he discovered, it could—so SONNY ran for mayor and made the changes that he thought needed to be made. The people who had seen what he could do overwhelmingly voted to send him to Congress to give him a chance to make some needed changes here as well.

SONNY was just getting started when he was taken from us, but he had already made a difference. We passed legislation here in the House that he wrote which was designed to protect the voters in my state, legislation that would prevent a single judge from overturning the will of the people as expressed through a statewide ballot initiative.

In short, though SONNY BONO was successful, and though he did serious work, he never took himself, or this body, too seriously. He knew that the important things in life should be enjoying your family, enjoying your work, and chasing whatever dreams you have, whether it's a gold record or a Senate seat. In that, he set a good example for us all.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlemen from California (Mr. LEWIS) and (Mr. BROWN) for arranging this opportunity to memorialize our good friend, SONNY BONO. And it is with a great deal of sadness that I join with our colleagues in expressing our deepest condolences upon the tragic, untimely and premature passing of our colleague from California, SONNY BONO.

It is difficult in our society to achieve any phenomenal success in any given field. SONNY was one of the few people to achieve distinction in four different occupations: songwriting, show business, managing a restaurant business and, most important, public service.

I first came to know SONNY during his first term in the Congress. His knowledge of the copyright law, his dedication to intellectual property rights and his indignation over the pirating of American works by other nations, particularly the People's Republic of China, was one of significant assistance to those of us on our Committee on International Relations as we wrestled with those issues.

He brought to the Congress his experience and insight, which were rare, and he will not soon be forgotten. It was pointed out at the time of his passing that SONNY BONO is one of the few Members of Congress ever to habitually attend hearings of other committees, committees he did not serve on, simply because the subject was of interest to him or because he wanted to learn more about the issue. As a former restaurant owner, SONNY understood and brought to the Congress an understanding of the burdens faced by our small business owners. He had told me that most of us in the Congress cannot truly comprehend the extensive paperwork and the bureaucratic red tape burdening those who merely sought to follow the American dream of business ownership.

As mayor of Palm Springs, California, SONNY understood the problems faced by our local governments in small cities. The television interviews with Palm Springs residents, which were broadcast in the wake of his passing, underscored how much appreciated and loved he was by the residents of his home town in California. He brought to the mayor's office professionalism, seasoned with a generous helping of common sense. His revitalization of downtown Palm Springs with such innovations as a film festival has set a model which mayors and town supervisors throughout our Nation have sought to emulate.

□ 1415

SONNY will always be remembered in this body for his enthusiasm and his vigor. And at a time in Washington noted for extreme partisanship, SONNY made a point of reaching across the aisle to befriend and to aid all Members of our body. SONNY's heart was as big as the outdoors, and he will long be remembered for his ability to bring people together.

Mr. Speaker, I join in extending my deepest condolences to SONNY's widow, Mary, to his children, and to the many Americans who loved and respected SONNY BONO. He was a voice we needed. SONNY will be sorely missed.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader of the House.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much and commend him and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for bringing this special order so that all of us would have an opportunity to speak about our fallen colleague, SONNY BONO.

I certainly rise first with sympathy and condolences for his family. This is a horrible loss to them and we send prayers of understanding, prayers of comfort for this time of great sorrow in their lives.

We all speak today with a very heavy heart and great sadness that this would happen. It is always tragic when we stand here to eulogize a fallen colleague, but it is much more difficult and sad when that colleague is taken from us at the pinnacle of their life, before their time.

SONNY BONO brought his wonderful spirit and sense of humor to all of us here in the Capitol, here in the House of Representatives, and a good sense of humor is always bipartisan, and SONNY BONO was. He had a good word for everyone, Republican, Democrat. He had a kind word for everyone. He was never, that I could see, in a bad mood. He was always in a good mood. He was never pessimistic. He was always optimistic. He was always very, very optimistic that we could solve our problems.

He brought another great gift. He brought the gift of humor. He had the facility to, no matter how important the situation, no matter how tense, no matter how much controversy surrounded an issue, he would bring his wonderful sense of humor that made us all laugh, made us all stop, and made us all consider whether or not we really wanted to be as serious as we were about a subject.

But I want to say that he always took his office and the issues facing this country seriously. He always reminded the rest of us about one thing; that as important as the issues are, as seriously as we take ourselves, we were basically sent here to address the needs and concerns of a half a million people in our districts, and there was nothing that SONNY took more seriously than that. He cared about the people he represented and he worked in their behalf. This, of course, is a message that all of us must remember every day that we serve.

Fate robbed us of the presence of SONNY BONO, but fate will never take away his spirit from the people's House of Representatives. I commend the gentlemen. We will all miss SONNY BONO, and our hearts and prayers go out to his family at this time of great sorrow.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) has 6 minutes remaining. There is a total of 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a gentleman who changed not only many of us personally but who changed this institution overall. SONNY BONO truly was the Will Rogers of this Congress. He was a man who brought common sense and the reminder to all of us that what really matters is what happens to America, not what happens to those of us in Congress. He reminded all of us that the people who are really important are not people in Washington, D.C. but the people out in the rest of America.

I think that I had the privilege of knowing SONNY actually before the other Members of Congress for a lot of reasons, not just because I was from California but because myself and SONNY BONO ended up being seated together during freshman orientation, and it was my privilege to learn about a man who had gone through many things, who had accomplished many things without all the benefits and advantages that many of us here in Congress had.

SONNY BONO was a man who was able to remind us again and again that we are not what is essential for America, but what we do for the American people is what is absolutely essential. SONNY'S legislative packages were not highlighted with great press conferences and great activity, but things like defending the right of the initiative of the people's vote by requiring three judges to review the citizen's initiatives before it is overturned was basic, strong, good legislation, not just for California but for all of America.

SONNY BONO'S position on the Salton Sea that the Federal Government and the State government and local communities should work together to help clean up environmental problems was a strong message that SONNY BONO was able to send us.

Mr. Speaker, SONNY'S death hit many of us very, very personally. Mary Bono and her children had their husband and father taken away from them at a very critical time in their life, and our hearts go out to Mary and the children. Congress may think about the fact, and those of us that knew SONNY may say, Congress will not be the same without SONNY BONO on that front aisle reminding all of us to be up front. I think what we need to remember is Congress will never be the same because SONNY BONO sat in that first aisle and was so up front.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, those of us who gather today gather to celebrate the life of a man who, while small in physical stature, had a giant heart and a remarkable way of putting us all at ease.

We were both elected in 1994, and having grown up watching Sonny and Cher, he was an instant celebrity to us and to many Americans. But he was also one who found time in his day to help give an idea, an insight, a solution to a problem that many who had graduated from college could not think of because it was not in a textbook. SONNY BONO lived a life of having to struggle and survive and prosper by ingenuity, hard work and determination. So his solutions were not always something you would find in the Harvard Law Review, but really something he scratched out when he was working as a restaurateur, a songwriter, a creative partner in Sonny and Cher.

He did a lot for his country and a lot for his district by bringing that simple sense of purpose to this Chamber, a Chamber that is rich in history and sometimes too steeped in tradition to recognize that there is a time when we all have to just laugh and say we are Americans first, we are not partisan gladiators in a war, but we are Americans. And SONNY had that wonderful ability to bring forth that smile and that spirit.

He worked on, as the gentleman from California (Mr. BRIAN BILBRAY) said, the Salton Sea, and labeling of produce, and so many other issues that affect us, but he was, at the bottom of

it all, most proud that he was a husband and a father, proud of what Chastity was doing in her life now, proud of the two children he was raising with Mary, proud of the work he had done with his partner and collaborator, Cher, and I guess proud of the fact that he got to serve in this great Chamber as a Member of the United States House.

For that bit of opportunity that all of us knew him, we thank God for the richness that he blessed us with giving us SONNY. We thank the people of California for sending him. And we really thank Mary and his children for sharing him with us. It takes a lot to be in this body. It takes a lot from our families and our families deserve all the credit. Not the Member, but the family, for enduring the sacrifice that it takes to serve this country.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentlemen from California (Mr. LEWIS) and (Mr. BROWN) for bringing this. This is not easy. I think it is easier for me today than it was for some of us when we went to SONNY'S funeral.

SONNY had a unique way about him to make every person he met feel as though they were his friend, and that they were his only friend and that they were his best friend. He had a unique ability to do that. He did not care who an individual was. And I think that is why so many people in America feel as though when SONNY passed that we all feel a loss because he had an impact on so many people. Yes, my heart goes out to Mary and the children, but to everyone who feels as though somehow their life has been diminished because of the loss of SONNY BONO.

We have also been enriched. I wanted to say here that when I think of my good friend SONNY, his office was right next to mine, we sat next to each other for three years on two different committees, and when I think of SONNY, I think of an individual who is good natured. He had a winning smile and charm. He had the power of the twinkle in his eye. When he got the twinkle in his eye, everyone better look out because he was going to suck us into his excitement. He brings out that youthful excitement.

He was a charming, simple person. He had a quiet unassuming way about him. I think it was because even though he recognized his fame, he was humble and gracious because he had lived the peaks and valleys of celebrity status. So he said basically do not take yourself too seriously. Remember why you are here. SONNY was amused by the political fakery that he would see in this institution. So he kept himself very simple and he would remind us all the time by doing different things.

I have to take a moment, if I may, and share with America that SONNY served on the Committee on the Judiciary, and he was not a lawyer and he did not care for lawyers. I know he once said the Committee on the Judiciary would be a great committee if it did not have so many lawyers on it. He was the only nonlawyer on the Committee on the Judiciary.

One day the gentleman from Florida (BILL MCCOLLUM) had introduced the Youth Predator Act. Some on the committee were upset about the word "predator," and we debated the word all day. Now, SONNY was exhausted by lawyers playing their word games and debating one word all day, and we were going into the night and all of a sudden the rear doors of the Committee on the Judiciary burst wide open, and here comes a gentleman in carrying in these stacks of pizzas. SONNY grabs the microphone and he asks for the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) to yield to him and he asks for a recess because he has bought pizzas for everyone.

Basically what he was doing was saying just calm down, relax, let us think about who we are and how we serve. And that was one of the great attributes of our dear friend. He taught us all by his words and his actions not to take ourselves too seriously and to remember we are here as the public servants.

I think of my dear friend. He had a heart alive to all of the beauties of nature. And as soon as he found out that I was a Frenchman, because he could not understand how "Buyer" could be pronounced Buyer, and I explained to him, he would tickle me sometimes and called me Monsieur de Buyer. So to my good friend I refer to you as a la mode, which is French, according to your style, SONNY.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution, H.R. 338, memorializing SONNY BONO.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent, since our time is running out, for an additional 20 minutes to complete the discussions regarding this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Hearing no objection, an additional 20 minutes is granted to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIBBONS).

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for yielding this time to me. In addition to the speakers of the last hour, I too would like to rise to pay tribute to our late colleague, SONNY BONO.

When often asked to describe SONNY BONO, we here on the floor would fondly refer to him as the Will Rogers of Congress. His humor lightened our lives, those especially of us who were lucky enough to have had the opportunity to know and to serve with him. His klutzy exterior often masked the articulate intellectual interior of a man who was committed to ending the scourge of drugs on our country.

When he saw the rock culture of the 60s turning to the drug culture of the 60s, SONNY BONO said no. He was outspoken in his opposition to drug use throughout his career as an entertainer as well as a public servant. He was a dedicated husband and father who placed the well-being of his family above all.

While in Washington, SONNY preached a message that each of this body would do well to remember: "Take your job but not yourself very seriously."

Farewell, SONNY. May God bless your family. This country will miss you.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

□ 1430

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and I know that this is a difficult task for him to undertake. When one orchestrates the goodbye to a good friend, it is not an easy thing to do; and I appreciate the dignity and the concerns my colleague has shown for all of us in dealing with this very, very tragic task that befell him.

Mr. Speaker, we are too much divided by parties, by ideology. Obviously, division properly pursued is at the heart of democracy. That is what we enshrine, the right of people to differ. But recently in American politics, and maybe in the politics of other places, differences have deepened in ways that are not necessary and are not healthy. Personal enmity too often has accompanied honest differences on issues; and, for me, the greatest loss that we suffer in SONNY BONO's death and for many of us he was a good friend. So we lose the personal sense.

I must say, of the large number of people I have gotten to meet, of all of them, SONNY was probably the hardest guy to be unhappy in his presence. There was about him a determination to seek out the most cheerful and the most upbeat in any situation. He radiated that, and he shared that, and we benefited from being in his presence. But we lose as an institution someone who was dedicated to the proposition that ideological and partisan differences were a good thing and part of

our democracy, but that when personal enmity entered into it, it poisoned the process.

SONNY BONO did more to counter that tendency inappropriately to personalize disagreement than anybody. He was someone who it was hard to get mad at. He was someone who sought out the common humanity that he had with others.

As an analyst, Mr. Speaker, he was extraordinary; and he showed that talent early on in that wonderful monologue he performed in 1995 at the Press Club Foundation. Because what he did, this was a man who was a first-rate entertainer. He was a man who understood how you make yourself appealing and enjoyable to audiences. In the best sense of the word, he was a man who was determined to ingratiate himself to others, not by giving away principle but by being someone who other people enjoyed being around; and he studied how you did that in the entertainment context.

And what was extraordinary was that, within a few weeks, he observed how Members of Congress did that here; and he did some great analytical work looking at the place as a theater, a small house today, but sometimes that happens. He understood this place as a theater, and he understood that important element of it, and with the good humor and with the lack of malice that drove everything that he did, in my experience, he shared that with people. That understanding of the legitimately theatrical effects that impacted our politics was an important thing that he shared.

I also benefited, as many did, by his expertise of the field of intellectual property, where as a song writer he knew a great deal and made a very significant contribution to the Committee on the Judiciary. Indeed, I believe there were times when he might have been a little bit chagrined if people knew exactly how serious and thoughtful he got when we dealt with some of these very complicated and intellectual property subjects; and I am very glad now that just before we adjourned he passed in this House and I think they became law two important pieces of legislation dealing with protection of rights of property owners.

There was controversy over them, and SONNY weighed in and was critical in our passing these bills regarding the La Machia and La Cienega cases and other contexts people could look up.

Finally, I just have to return to the personal. SONNY and I and our partners, his wife Mary and my partner Herb, went to dinner one night at Galileo. It was an interesting night, Mr. Speaker. It was a night we thought we were going to adjourn and all the Democrats voted not to adjourn and the Republicans double-crossed us by voting also not to adjourn, Mr. Speaker. They kind of surprised us.

So Herb and Mary were kind of waiting for me and SONNY. There was kind of a lot of confusion that night because we did not know whether we had adjourned or had not adjourned, and we had to choose between adjournment and our dinner reservations in Galileo. Actually, in the end, I think we managed to get both an adjournment and dinner; and the four of us, along with the movie director John Waters, had a wonderful time.

Herb had that same reaction to being in SONNY's company that I did. He was just a wonderfully good friend. He was a man who understood the meaning of friendship, was dedicated to it and understood the importance to our democracy of injecting some of that spirit in here. We will all miss him.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the comments of my colleague the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

I wonder if my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), would like me to yield time for any closing remarks?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, just one anecdote that I recalled after I sat down about SONNY. That is, amongst many times that I met with SONNY, there was one occasion when he did not show up; and that was most unusual. I had difficulty understanding why until an explanation was offered.

This particular meeting, which I think involved a visit from the Secretary of the Interior to SONNY's district and to the Salton Sea, came at a time when he had already scheduled some other activities with his children; and he missed this very important high-level meeting because he placed his previous commitments to his children above anything else. I think that speaks a lot to the nature of the man and where his priorities really were.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, let me express my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) for his participating in this very important session today; and I would join him in extending appreciation to the Speaker, as well as the minority and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for their giving us time tomorrow, for we will have a memorial service for SONNY BONO at 10 in the Hall of Statutes, a very unusual opportunity for the House.

One of my colleagues mentioned that he will never quite forget that twinkle in the eye that SONNY always carried with him on or off the floor. SONNY also had this wonderful smile that just absolutely melted anybody who would even consider challenging him on one issue or one problem here or there.

We all know of SONNY and Cher. Many did not have the opportunity to participate in a very small service that took place a couple of evenings before the formal funeral service, but there Mary and Cher were both present. They are dear friends who together spent those several days nurturing their children in this time of pain and sadness. But the poignancy of their relationship is a reflection of the quality and strength of our friend, SONNY BONO.

I must say that we all remember SONNY and Cher by way of perhaps their first hit record, which was entitled, "Baby Don't Go." We all know of "I've got you, Babe." SONNY has had an impact upon all of us in many a way throughout his lifetime but certainly during his service in this House.

I want to express both condolences but also deep appreciation for some others as well, the staffs of SONNY BONO both in California and here in Washington, especially Brian Nestande, his administrative assistant; Beverly Swain and Frank Cohen.

Further, let me say in conclusion that SONNY has made a difference in the House of Representatives in that he strove to make certain that we did all in our power in spite of our differences from time to time to work together in a nonpartisan way on behalf of the people of this country.

To quote and join one of my colleagues, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN), let us all say we are going to miss you, babe.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to support this resolution honoring our late colleague, SONNY BONO, who was taken from us so tragically. My prayers and condolences go out to his wife and family.

I was fortunate to get to know SONNY during his distinguished service here. I, like many of my Republican colleagues, took advantage of his popularity and hosted him for an event with the Lake County Republicans in my district. SONNY's speech was better attended than when I invited different members of our Republican leadership. His witty storytelling brought down the house. I laughed so hard I had tears in my eyes. SONNY was scheduled to return next month to my district, and he will be missed.

His self-deprecating humor belied a sharp intellect. It was not an intellect bred of school and books—it was an intellect borne of the school of hard knocks. Despite his lack of formal education, he succeeded in his every endeavor—songwriter, singer, mayor, Member of Congress. Although he faced many obstacles, his quiet determination overcame them. For all of these unusual achievements, he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

SONNY was a favorite of my children in particular. I was very grateful to SONNY for the time he spent with my daughter Rachel, whom I lost to cancer last month. Last fall, SONNY took Rachel out to lunch and had his picture taken with her. I will treasure that photo of the two of them, each taken from us too early. When my other kids learned of SONNY's death they said they were sure that the first person he would see in heaven would be Rachel. I am sure that the two of them are enjoying life in a better place—in the company of our Lord.

Again, I want his dear wife and family to know that they remain in our prayers. I would like to close by thanking the Dean of the California delegation, JERRY LEWIS, for sponsoring this resolution.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for a few moments in which to pay respect to our late colleague, SONNY BONO.

SONNY's office is just across the hall from mine, and we often walked together to the House floor. We both served on the House National Security Committee, and I came to appreciate his open-minded and bipartisan approach to tough problems. I will also miss his self-deprecating charm, which he often used to disguise his seriousness of purpose.

In the past two years, Congress has lost four of its sweetest and most decent members—Frank Tejeda (D-TX), Bill Emerson (R-MO), Walter Capps (D-CA), and, earlier this month, SONNY BONO. Frank's office was also on our hallway, immediately next to mine.

It's a sad time for Californians. And, I also want to extend my condolences to SONNY's wife, Mary, his children, and the members of his staff.

SONNY, we'll miss you, babe.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the news of SONNY's untimely passing was greatly upsetting to me. SONNY was an upstanding leader in his community, a good family man, and a solid legislator. He served his constituents in southern California well and brought a certain spirit and vitality to all that he did in Congress that will not soon be replaced. This is truly a great loss.

As a dedicated public servant, SONNY used both wit and wisdom to serve the interests of his constituents. Although he may best be remembered for his success as an entertainer, SONNY quickly earned the reputation in Congress as a highly skilled and intelligent legislator. As an instrumental member of the Salton Sea Task Force, he has used his insight and his intelligence to make great strides toward returning life to the Salton Sea south of Palm Springs. In addition, his deep concern for the direction of our nation led him to become a top fundraiser for the Republican Party and a leading advocate for a drug-free America.

Mr. Speaker, SONNY was a man of substance with both passion and abilities not to be underestimated. I am fortunate to have worked closely with SONNY on several occasions and will hold dear to me memories of his character, sense of humor and deep desire to get things done. My heart goes out to Mary and his family. He will be truly missed.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE SONNY BONO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of House Resolution 311, 105th Congress, the Speaker on Friday, January 9, 1998, did appoint the following Members to attend the funeral of the late Honorable SONNY BONO.

Without objection, these names will appear at this point in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

The list referred to is as follows:

Mr. DELLUMS, California, Mr. GINGRICH, Georgia, Mr. ARMEY, Texas, Mr. BROWN, California, Mr. STARK, California, Mr. MILLER, California, Mr. WAXMAN, California, Mr. DIXON, California, Mr. FAZIO, California, Mr. LEWIS, California, Mr. MATSUI, California, Mr. THOMAS, California, Mr. DREIER, California, Mr. HUNTER, California, Mr. LANTOS, California, Mr. MARTINEZ, California, Mr. BERMAN, California, Mr. PACKARD, California, Mr. TORRES, California, Mr. GALLEGLY, California, Mr. HERGER, California, Ms. PELOSI, California, Mr. COX, California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, California, Mr. CONDIT, California, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, California, Mr. DOOLEY, California, Mr. DOOLITTLE, California, Ms. WATERS, California, Mr. BECERRA, California, Mr. CALVERT, California, Ms. ESHOO, California, Mr. FILNER, California, Ms. HARMAN, California, Mr. HORN, California, Mr. KIM, California, Mr. MCKEON, California, Mr. POMBO, California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, California, and Mr. ROYCE, California.

Ms. WOOLSEY, California, Mr. FARR, California, Mr. RIGGS, California, Mr. BILBRAY, California, Ms. LOFGREN, California, Mr. RADANOVICH, California, Mr. CAMPBELL, California, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, California, Mr. ROGAN, California, Mr. SHERMAN, California, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, California, Mrs. TAUSCHER, California, Mr. HYDE, Illinois, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Louisiana, Mr. SHAW, Florida, Mr. SAXTON, New Jersey, Mr. COBLE, North Carolina, Mr. WELDON, Pennsylvania, Mr. MCNULTY, New York, Mr. PAXON, New York, Mr. WALSH, New York, Mr. BARTLETT, Maryland, Mr. BUYER, Indiana, Mr. DICKEY, Arkansas, Mr. KING, New York, Mr. LINDER, Georgia, Mr. MCINNIS, Colorado, Mr. QUINN, New York, Mr. SMITH, Michigan, Mr. BARR, Georgia, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Georgia, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Idaho, Mrs. CUBIN, Wyoming, Mr. EHRLICH, Maryland, Mr. FOLEY, Florida, Mr. FOX, Pennsylvania, Mr. GANSKE, Iowa, Mr. HAYWORTH, Arizona, Mrs. KELLY, New York, Mr. LATHAM, Iowa, Mrs. MYRICK, North Carolina, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Washington, Mr. NEY, Ohio, Mr. TIAHRT, Kansas, Mr. WELLER, Illinois, Mr. KUCINICH, Ohio, and Mr. THUNE, South Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE JOHN MOSS

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have the sad duty to make an announcement to the House jointly with my dear friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN). It is our sad duty to announce the death of our former colleague and dear friend, the Honorable John Moss from California.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my dear friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN); and then we will have further comments at a time later.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding; and I, too, wish to participate in this notification to the House of the death of John Moss.

John was a dear friend, a man who reflected the best in California and whom I felt some rather deep bonds with because of certain similarities in our careers. I think we both came to Congress with the reputation of being somewhat of a maverick, and we felt the consequences of that for a while.

John was a man of deep commitment to his principles and deep loyalty to the concerns of his constituents in his State. He came here 10 years before I did, but after I arrived we found we had a similarity of interests.

I remember in particular that when he decided to give up his place on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy he insisted that the leadership appoint me in his place, and he was sufficiently adamant that he refused to resign from the committee until he had received the assurances that that would take place.

Of course, the committee was abolished shortly after that, so the results were not all that earth shaking. But I remember John's commitment which he had made to me that he would make sure that I did replace him, and he kept that commitment.

He was a great man, and I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for allowing me to participate in recognizing that.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), the dean from the California Democratic Delegation; and I want to express my personal sorrow and grief at this event and also to extend the commiserations and condolences of myself and my wife, Deborah, to John's wonderful widow Jean and to his daughters, Jennifer and Alison, and to his four grandchildren.

As mentioned by the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), John Moss was a man of enormous vigor, great courage, enormous energy, who maintained a real sense of responsibility to the people he served and also a sense of

outrage about wrongdoing. He served in the House from 1953 to 1978; and I had, with the exception of 2 of those years, the privilege of sitting next to him on the Committee on Commerce, where he was a chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and where he was also the chairman of other subcommittees with important responsibilities.

He has left us a great heritage, protection of consumers, not the least of which by the Consumer Product Safety Act. He also was one who believed in open government; and he was the author of the Freedom of Information Act, which he led the fight to see enacted. He also was the author of the Federal Trade Commission Improvements Act and scores of other pieces of legislation of importance to the people of this country.

His action with regard to the Freedom of Information Act was something which led to open government in which people could have reason to trust not only their government but that their interests were fully and properly considered and cared for.

His wife Jean and he had a great romance, and they greatly loved each other and had a long and happy life together.

John, as I mentioned, served from 1953 to 1978. He died on December 5, 1997. He was a great American, a real patriot, a distinguished Member of this body, a great public servant, and a man whom we will all miss. He was also a man whose contributions to the well-being of this country and to the dignity and to the effectiveness of this institution were great indeed.

□ 1445

We will miss him, we will pray for his soul, and we extend our condolences and sorrow to his dear wife Jean and to his daughters Jennifer and Allison.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit correspondence received from the White House on November 20, 1997 at 6:50 p.m. and said to contain a letter from the President dated 11/20/97 regarding the Line Item Veto Act and "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998".

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.

CANCELLATION OF DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY ON H.R. 2160, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, pursuant to section 1025(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, November 20, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2160). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachments, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit correspondence received from the White House on November 20, 1997 at 6:50 p.m. and said to contain a letter from the President dated 11/20/97 regarding the Line Item Veto Act (H.R. 2107, the Interior Appropriations, FY 1998).

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.

CANCELLATION OF DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY ON H.R. 2107, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, pursuant to section 1025(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, November 20, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2107). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachments, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit correspondence received from the White House on December 2, 1997 at 1:05 p.m. and said to contain a letter from the President dated 12/2/97 regarding the Line Item Veto Act (H.R. 2267, Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations, FY 1998).

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.

CANCELLATION OF DOLLAR AMOUNT OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY ON H.R. 2267, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, pursuant to section 1025(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, December 2, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amount of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached report, contained in the "Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2267). I have determined that the cancellation of this amount will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachment, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 16, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 8131, Public Law 105-56, I hereby appoint the following individual to the independent panel to evaluate the adequacy of current planning for United States long-range air power: Mr. Walter E. Morrow, Jr., Massachusetts.

Yours very truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOTIFICIATIONS UNDER RULE L

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following notifications under rule L:

The Clerk read as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 14, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that I have been served with a subpoena issued by the Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM H. GRADY,
Administrative Assistant to Congressman George E. Brown, Jr.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 14, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that I have been served with a subpoena issued by the United States District Court for District of Columbia.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena relates to my official duties, and that partial compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

BILL LIVINGOOD,
Sergeant at Arms.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 10, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the House that I have been served with a subpoena duces tecum issued by the Chancery Court of Forrest County, Mississippi, in the case of *Michelle Anderson v. Kade Paul Anderson*, Case No. 94-0711-GN-D.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that the subpoena relates to my official duties, and that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely yours,

BEAU GEX,
District Director for the Honorable Gene Taylor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 6, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that my office was served with a subpoena (for documents) issued by the McLean County, Illinois Circuit Court in the case of Lack v. Crain, No. 97 L 155, and directed to the "Keeper of Employment Records".

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

LANE EVANS,
Member of Congress.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 13, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena duces tecum issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia in the case of *Williams v. Psychiatric Institute of Washington.*

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House and, therefore, that the subpoena should be resisted.

Sincerely,

LISBETH M. MCBRIDE.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that tonight when the two houses meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his left and right will be opened.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance which is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

RENAMING WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, last in the hearts of the New York Times and the Washington Post, first in the hearts of his countrymen, that perhaps is the most fitting description of Ronald Reagan. He came into office after a difficult decade, with humiliation in Iran and economic tough times at home. The Soviet Union was expanding into Afghanistan and into our very own backyard. Inflation was soaring, unemployment was up, and also that irrepressible American confidence was shaken.

But not Ronald Reagan's confidence. He had the courage to stand up and speak out for what was right. He had the courage to face the Soviet bear right in the eye and say, back off.

Now that the Soviet Union is, as we know it, dead and over with, Ronald Reagan's legacy must stand proud and tall. A fitting monument to him would be naming the National Airport after him so that when people come to our Nation's capital, they can honor one of America's greatest Presidents.

NEW HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as a result of democratic leadership, Congress passed the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill in 1996, which extended health care insurance portability to millions of Americans and further limited preexisting condition exclusions. Last year the Democrats successfully fought to pass legislation that will provide health care benefits to over 5 million children, and both of these bills were enacted into law despite strong initial opposition from the Republican leadership.

Now, under the President's leadership, Democrats are now poised to fight for two new health care initiatives.

The first proposal would enable those aged 55 to 65 to buy into the Medicare program under certain conditions. The second initiative would provide for managed care reform or basic consumer protections for individuals in HMOs. Already Republican leaders are voicing opposition to these proposals.

Again, Mr. Speaker, Democrats are fighting for the average American family. Meanwhile, Republicans are teaming up with special interest groups in a million-dollar campaign to prevent common-sense health care reform.

BOMBING IRAQ WOULD BE THE RESULT OF FLAWED FOREIGN POLICY

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, it appears the administration is about to bomb Iraq. The stated reason is to force UN inspections of every inch of Iraqi territory to rule out the existence of any weapons of mass destruction. The President's personal problems may influence this decision, but a flawed foreign policy is behind this effort.

Why is Iraq a greater threat to U.S. security than China, North Korea, Russia or Iran? They all have weapons of mass destruction. This makes no sense.

There was a time in our history that bombing foreign countries was considered an act of war, done only with a declaration by this Congress. Today, tragically, it is done at the whim of Presidents and at the urging of congressional leaders without a vote, except maybe by the UN Security Council.

But the President is getting little support and a lot of resistance from our allies for this aggressive action.

Sadly, our policy in the Middle East has served to strengthen the hand of Hussein, unify the Islamic Fundamentalists and expose American citizens to terrorist attacks. Hussein is now anxious for the bombs to hit to further stir the hatred and blame toward America for all the approximate he has inflicted on his people.

DEMOCRATS UNITED ON BOLD AGENDA

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for the first time since 1969, the President of the United States will come into this chamber tonight and present the American people with a balanced budget.

Having accomplished that historic goal, Democrats are not content to rest on our laurels. We are moving ahead, united behind the President's bold agenda for 1998, proposals that will help middle-class families face the challenges they face in their daily lives.

In the coming months, Democrats will fight for health care coverage, for people who may lose their jobs toward retirement age; work to ensure high-quality health care through reforming managed care; fight for affordable, accessible quality child care for America's working families; help more Americans achieve a secure and comfortable retirement; help to raise the minimum wage.

Democrats are united in these goals and in this bold agenda for the coming year.

SUPPORT H.R. 2625, RENAMING WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, in American history, extraordinary times seem to call forth extraordinary individuals, great leaders who have given inspiration and hope during difficult times and moments of crisis.

FDR led this country through a terrible Depression and an even more terrible world war. JFK inspired a Nation during the height of the cold war and led America into space, a journey which culminated in putting a man on the moon in 1969. And Ronald Reagan challenged the conventional wisdom, both at home and abroad, rejecting the failed economic policies of the past and embracing a foreign policy based on strengths and a resolute belief in the rightness of American democratic values.

Grateful Americans have a proud national tradition of honoring their heroes, and grateful Americans from across the country have urged Congress to honor that great American hero, Ronald Reagan.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2625, a bill to redesignate Washington National Airport as Ronald Reagan National Airport. It is time to honor those who have done so much to make America great.

□ 1500

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, welcome back. I would like to talk today about education. Tonight in the State of the Union the President is poised to talk about investing in education for the 21st century. I think he is right.

Today, almost 60 percent of American citizens believe that the Federal Government is not investing enough in public education. Some would have us believe that the Federal Government is trying to take over education. That is not true.

The facts are these: About one-third of the Nation's schools need extensive repairs. According to the GAO, 46 percent of our schools lack electrical wiring necessary for computers and telecommunications technology. Fifty-five percent of our schools lack phone lines for modems necessary to connect to the Internet. If we are to truly move into the 21st century, we need to invest in education, and I think the President is on the right track.

He is also calling for investment in 100,000 new teachers. I think that is correct also. Right now in this country we have over 69,000 provisional uncertified teachers working in our schools. We have crowded classrooms. Let us hire more teachers, improve our classrooms, let us improve in education.

HARDWORKING AMERICANS ARE BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, it has started already. We are back here less than 6 hours and I am already hearing the demagoguing begin: The Democrats have balanced the budget. The American people know better, and I am going to shock my Republican colleagues right now. It is not the Democrats that have balanced the budget or the Republicans that have balanced the budget; it is hardworking American citizens that have taken the investment opportunities, invested their money and saved, gone to work every day and worked hard. That is what has kept our economy strong and it is because the economy is strong that we are reaching a balanced budget.

I do think it is important to state, though, for the first time since 1969–1970, for the 12 months running between December 1, 1996, and November 30, 1997, for the first time in nearly 30 years, the United States Government did not spend more than they had in their checkbook.

Where the credit goes is somewhat irrelevant. What is important is for the first time in 30 years, we are doing the right thing for the future of this great Nation that we live in.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS WILL BOAST BOLD INITIATIVES

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the feeding frenzy and the rush to judgment that we have heard in the media during the

past week involving the President is something I think that really is shameful. The media is saying that no Democrats are sticking with the President. This is one Democratic Congressman who is proud to stick with the President of the United States. He has been a good President. He has had many initiatives, and I want you to listen to some of those initiatives tonight.

When he talks about expanding Medicare, I am with him. When he talks about expanding child care, I am with him. When he talks about using the surplus to shore up Social Security, I am with him. When he talks about 100,000 new teachers, I am with him.

There are safeguards in this country, there are constitutional protections. One of them is one is innocent until proven guilty. The President of the United States deserves those same kinds of protections that you and I would want for ourselves.

The Bible says, let he who is without sin cast the first stone. I think we ought to remember that. Bill Clinton is my friend, my President. He has been a good President. I stand by him. Let us not rush to judgment. I am going to be listening to him tonight and I know he is going to have a brilliant State of the Union with bold initiatives that are good for this country.

IT IS TIME TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, our economy is the strongest that it has been in several decades. Wall Street is having one of the best years ever. The New York Times reported recently that more than 1,000 people on Wall Street got bonuses over $1 million. So it is time for working families to share in this great prosperity.

That is why Senator KENNEDY and I today are introducing legislation in the respective bodies of raising the minimum wage to $6.65 an hour to help restore some of the buying power of the minimum wage earners that have been lost over the last 30 years. Raising the minimum wage will help 12 million workers in this country, many of them, 66 percent, adults, and many of those mothers with children. A mother with 2 children earns $10,700 a year. She chose work over welfare and yet she is $2,600 below the poverty line. That is a disgrace. We need to get on and raise the minimum wage. It is indeed about creating opportunity, it is about rewarding work, about fairness, about dignity. Let us raise the minimum wage.

INITIATIVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today we mark the first day of the second year of our 105th Congress.

I stand here today to support the President and our Democratic Caucus and legislature as we continue our program of investing in American citizens, increasing and investing in education. I hope we will hear tonight that the President is soundly behind legislation and dollars that will make all American schools modern and bring them up to the 21st century: Smaller class sizes, as well as investing in our inner cities, expanding community investment banks in the inner cities, expanding affordable housing, expanding and protecting the environment.

We have been a strong caucus here in the Democratic Caucus in this 105th Congress. I have pledged to work with my colleagues tirelessly to protect Social Security, to protect quality education, and to make certain that the children of America are educated and ready for the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO EDNA KELLY

(Mr. TOWNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce to my colleagues the sad news of the passing of one of our illustrious former New York colleagues, Edna F. Kelly, who served in this body from 1949 to 1968. Representative Kelly died at her residence in Alexandria, Virginia at the age of 91 on December 14 of last year. Throughout her 19-year career in the House, Representative Kelly was recognized for her expertise in foreign affairs, serving as the chair of the Subcommittee on Europe and retiring from Congress as the third ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

During her tenure, Edna Kelly was responsible for measures that settled displaced people after World War II and refugees for Russia and Eastern Europe. She also helped to create the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Edna Kelly was truly a legislative pioneer. To pay tribute to her achievements, I have requested time tomorrow, and I urge my colleagues to join me in sharing their thoughts on this great lady and her accomplishments as a member of this House.

SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S CHILD CARE INITIATIVE

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, when I ran for this office, I called for a new national initiative on child care. I have visited child care facilities throughout my district. Every morning all across this country parents go to work and trust the most important people in their lives, their children, to someone else. Thirteen million children under age six are in child care during the day.

In other homes across the country, children under the age of 6 are glued to the television. They watch TV for hours because they have no place to go, no activities to occupy their time. Too much child care is of mediocre quality, but still not affordable to most working families. This is not because child care providers make big salaries.

Help is on the way. The President's proposal provides $21 billion over 5 years to improve child care for America's working families. It doubles the number of children receiving child care subsidies, and it increases the tax credits for families and businesses.

Our mission is simple: Leave no child behind; support the President's child care initiative.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1500

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1500.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

WISE INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Americans are focused on the President right now, but it is important that they focus as well on the agenda that he will be outlining here this evening.

As we finally resolve the budget deficit, it is time to direct our attention and our energy to other deficits that exist in this land: Deficits in child care, deficits in our schools, deficits in health care and in our transportation system. Too many Americans approach the age of their 50s or 60s without the security of health insurance. They risk losing all that they have worked for with a health care emergency. They get downsized and down and out when it comes to health insurance and protection against a health care emergency.

The President has properly advanced the notion of expanding and strengthening Medicare, and providing all of us, regardless of age, a health care consumer Bill of Rights. Likewise, as we made progress last session on higher education, this session we should be devoting our attention to strengthening the public education system and to recognizing that one of the best ways to

back up families is to provide them the child care resources, through our tax system and otherwise, to back up their efforts. These would be wise investments in America.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILLY" ROLLE

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness for the loss of what I call an urban patriot, a young man by the name of William "Billy" Rolle who resided in Coconut Grove, Florida. He not only resided there, Mr. Speaker, but he helped to build the youth of that community. Not only did he build the youth, but he also helped the elderly. He closed the gap between youth and old age by working very hard with all people in Miami and in Dade County.

Billy Rolle was a jazz man. He played the saxophone, not only from the rhythmic standpoint of playing the keys on the saxophone, but he did it from the standpoint of training young people in music. He trained them in athletics. He had an AAU track team. He did everything he could to help the young people in Miami.

Mr. Speaker, Billy Rolle did not have all the money that government puts into programs, but what "Billy" Rolle did was to put himself into these programs, to train these young people, take them off the street, to be sure that they learned many things that would improve their quality of life. It is such a time now that we grieve the death of William "Billy" Rolle, because he died an untimely death. But Mr. Speaker, Billy Rolle shall always be remembered as a man in Dade County who did a lot for many, many people, but most of all, he gave of service and invested in human lives, and for that, we shall always remember William "Billy" Rolle, Frankie Rolle, his lovely wife of 46 years, his daughter Melanie, his son, little Billy, and the other children throughout Dade County that William "Billy" Rolle helped.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Orders until 5:30 p.m., at which time the Chair will declare the House in recess.

□ 1515

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

TYPHOON PAKA

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express on behalf of the people of Guam our heartfelt sympathies to all our fellow Americans who are victims of winter storms and who are still without electricity to keep themselves warm.

Mr. Speaker, as the Nation's attention focuses on the plight of our friends and neighbors in the northeast, we in Guam are quietly recovering from the devastation of a massive tropical cyclone, Typhoon Paka, which struck Guam on December 16th. Paka destroyed or severely damaged 8,000 homes, injuring more than 200 people and leaving more than 3,000 families homeless. Of the homeless, more than 1,000 required temporary housing immediately.

The typhoon made a shambles out of hundreds of public and private buildings and facilities, schools, churches, stores, businesses and parks. The island was stripped of foliage, and thousands of trees as well as even concrete power poles were mowed down. Typhoon Paka pummeled Guam for 12 hours, causing an estimated $256 million in damages.

Christmas in Guam was not as bright as usual, but the people of Guam celebrated a joyous and grateful holiday anyway. They had a Christmas miracle of a sort: Not a single human life was lost; and, in fact, nine new lives came into the world on the night of the storm.

Typhoon Paka was an extraordinary storm. A super typhoon with a double eye wall packing maximum sustained winds of 160 miles per hour and gusts of 195 miles per hour. One gust was clocked by the Air Force at 236 miles per hour, making it the strongest ever recorded. While experts continue to debate the accuracy of this reading, only wind speed captured national media attention, and then only briefly.

To have survived this enormous disaster with no loss of life is a testament to the resilience and vitality of the people of Guam, and I am proud to tell of the courage and strength and endurance of my people.

Immediately after the typhoon, residents from every corner of the island had stories to tell about the care and concern, the support and help that the more fortunate shared generously. Residents with generators ran extension cords to neighbors without power.

Caring people, like Carl Sgambelluri, knew that his old friend, Juan Cepeda, a disabled vet, would need help. Without being asked, Mr. Sgambelluri brought Mr. Cepeda a 1,000-gallon water trailer and a generator. He then got the generator going and left to help others.

Mr. Sgambelluri, the Fernandez and Poppe brothers, young George Quinata, Wally Hollis, Paul Cepeda, and bus drivers John Angoco and Joe Castro, who helped the Agana Heights Mayor Paul McDonald rescue five families, are among the many, many people who helped others to cope with this devastating storm.

Help also came with the Federal disaster declaration by the President the day after the storm. FEMA came and organized the Federal response team consisting of representatives of DOD, SBA, HUD, HHS, Labor, Corps of Engineers, Interior.

To date, FEMA has provided over $8 million for debris removal, $12 million in housing assistance, $51 million in individual and family grants, and over $7.5 million in SBA loans. The American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other volunteer service agencies have also worked hard to provide food and shelter, clothing and other household needs to the people of Guam.

When the Guam Power Authority originally announced that it would take 3 months to restore power, island-wide hearts sank. Yet now we are 6 weeks into the recovery and with help from crews from the Northern Marianas, Palau, Yap, Ponphei, Hawaii, California, and even the Air Force, repairs are more than 83 percent complete. This is phenomenal for those of us who endured a lack of electricity for months in previous typhoons.

The government of Guam, under the leadership of Governor Carl Gutierrez, the mayors of Guam, the employees of GovGuam, were all tested in this latest typhoon and all passed with flying colors.

As we begin to plan the long-term recovery efforts, I will be working closely with FEMA and my colleagues in Congress to identify hazard mitigation projects and other ways to prepare for future typhoons and natural disasters. I have met with FEMA Director Witt who is organizing a Federal task force on Typhoon Paka. The government of Guam will be working closely with the Federal task force to recommend mitigation efforts for the island.

I want to applaud all the staff of FEMA who are involved in the Typhoon Paka relief efforts, especially Dale Peterson who is the Federal coordinating officer assigned to Guam, for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the people of Guam.

Washington and Guam may be separated by 10,000 miles, but when disaster strikes, the public servants at FEMA and other Federal agencies come through with flying colors to help their fellow Americans in the Pacific.

The story of Typhoon Paka may soon fade with the passage of time, but there are lessons that we can all benefit from. Perhaps this is what makes Guam so special. Because we live in "Typhoon Alley," we have learned

those lessons well; and we have often learned to take stock of things that are really important.

STATE OF THE UNION

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud American and a very proud Democrat. Tonight, 2 years ahead of schedule, the President of the United States will present to the American people its first balanced budget in 3 decades.

For many Americans listening to President Clinton's State of the Union message, this will be the first moment in their lifetime to witness the President of the United States present his vision for the future in the context of a balanced budget. They will know for the first time in their lifetime that our Nation's strong economy, built upon sound fiscal policy, will be able to secure their future.

They will hear a vision committed to excellence in education, to quality health care for all Americans, to safe, high-quality care for our youngest children; and, most of all, they will hear from a President committed to ensuring that potential budget surpluses safeguard Social Security and Medicare for future generations.

Education, child care, health care, security in our senior years, all in the context of a balanced budget. Mr. Speaker, as a Democrat, I am proud of these achievements that provide opportunity and security for all working families.

SAFEGUARDING SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE PRUDENT USE OF BUDGET SURPLUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NEUMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin today on a solemn note and extend my condolences to the BONO family and recognize SONNY for the great man he was.

I will never forget the first time that my daughter found out that SONNY BONO was serving in Congress and came in with the same class that I came in with in 1995, and she could not figure out what her father was doing in the same place as somebody as important as SONNY BONO.

So, Mary, our condolences are with you and your family; and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I, for one, think you are going to be a great Congresswoman if you decide that is the direction you are going to go.

Mr. Speaker, on a light and positive note I would like to extend my congratulations to the Green Bay Packers. I am from the great State of Wisconsin and some think they did not win their second Superbowl on Sunday. In fact, what happened is that they just put off winning their second Superbowl in the 1990's for 12 months.

Some people around this Nation and some of my colleagues do not realize that the Packers are made up of a lot more than a football team. There is a lot of integrity in that group of individuals, people like Reggie White, who our young people look to as an example of leadership and for all the right reasons in this Nation. It is truly a pleasure to have not only the greatest football team in the country but also a team with the integrity that the Green Bay Packers have in the great State of Wisconsin.

On to the third topic and perhaps the most timely topic that we will address here today. The State of the Union address is, of course, this evening. And as I listened to the 1-minute speeches here this morning I kept hearing this one word repeated over and over and over again. It was "expansion." Expansion of this and expansion of that and expansion of the next thing.

The bottom line that I hear back home in Wisconsin is that what the people would like is to be able to keep more of their own money to make decisions on how to spend it themselves. When we hear the word expansion this evening, we need to understand that what they mean is expansion of Washington spending programs.

Do some of those expansions help people? Sure, they do. Of course, they do. But the question is, are we better off expanding those programs, taking money out of the pockets of people to pay for these expansions? Or would we be better off just letting people keep their own money and let them make decisions on how to spend the money themselves?

So as we go into this evening we need to understand that there is going to be a lot of new programs described, and they are going to sound just like apple pie and America. They are going to sound really, really good. And, frankly, if they are really, really good programs and the Democrats or the President would describe what it is that he is not going to do in government, that he is going to end some wasteful Washington spending program and reprioritize that money with something different, I guess I, for one, would be willing to listen to that.

But if what we are going to do tonight is talk about how we are going to use surpluses to expand Washington, rather than use those surpluses to pay down the Federal debt and return the money back to the people so that the people can keep more of their hard-earned money, then I would say it is going to be a very rough year ahead for us as we debate these issues. Because I, for one, believe that the American people support less Washington and keeping more of their own money in their own homes through the tax cut programs that are being proposed out here or across-the-board tax cuts, better yet.

One of the topics that we understand is going to be discussed in great detail tonight is the topic of Social Security, and I do understand that the President is going to suggest that taking some of the surpluses that are materializing and applying them to Social Security. So let me start with what exactly a surplus means and what a balanced budget means here in Washington. That is very important to understand as we look at what we are going to do with these surpluses.

First, what is a balanced budget? Washington definition, it sounds pretty good on the surface. Washington's definition of a balanced budget is that the amount of money coming in is equal to the amount of money going out, and I would have to agree that on the surface that sounds like a pretty good definition.

It is important to recognize that that is the definition that has been used out here since the late 1960's, the last time we had a, "balanced budget." It is very significant that we have reached the point where the budget is balanced under Washington definition for the first time since 1969–70; and, in fact, it is not political rhetoric or promise or any other political jargon.

The facts are in: From December 1, 1996, to November 30, 1997, for the first time since 1969–70, the United States Government did not spend more money than it had in its checkbook.

Let me say that once more. It is so significant and it is such a change from where we have been in the past. For the first time since 1969–70, and this is in the books. The books are closed on this. For the first time since 1969–70, the United States Government for a 12-month period of time did not spend more money than they had in their checkbook. That is to say, by Washington's definition, the budget is balanced.

On the surface, this is great news. And not only on the surface. It is great news because before we can go on and address the other problems facing our Nation: Social Security, paying down the debt, lowering taxes. We first had to quit spending more money than was in the checkbook, and we first had to quit spending our children's money.

This is great news. It is a tribute to people like JOHN KASICH and NEWT GINGRICH and TRENT LOTT. Let us even mention President Clinton, so we don't fall into the demagoguing like the other side seems to be starting.

I learned this real quick in Washington, that there is absolutely no end to what we can accomplish in this city if we are willing to give somebody else the credit for doing it.

So let me give credit to lots of people, both sides of the aisle for getting us to where we are today. But, most important, let me give that credit back to the American people because it is a strong economy that has generated lots of extra revenue that is as important as what has been done here in Washington.

I do not want to downplay the significance of the Washington role in this. In all fairness, Washington has had good economies between 1969 and today, and every time in the past that Washington had a good economy they saw the extra revenue coming in, and they spent it as fast as it came in.

So, in all fairness, this is a combination of the people in Washington for a change not spending the extra revenue that is coming in. At the same time, the economy has stayed very, very strong, and we slowed the growth of Washington spending by over 40 percent since 1995 when I was first elected.

So it is a combination of those two things, and it is significant, and it is important, and credit should be dished out for those things. But we should also understand that we are not at the end of the road. We have reached a milestone, but we have a long, long ways to go.

Let me explain in more detail what is wrong with the Washington definition of a balanced budget.

I come from the business world. I never held office before this one. I left the business world to run for office because I did not think it was right that we were spending our children's money. I did not think it was right how Social Security was being handled, and I thought taxes were too high and government was too big in general.

When we look at the solution that we have now reached a balanced budget, we need to understand the second part of this problem. The second part of this problem is in Social Security. In the private sector where I come from if we had treated a pension plan the way the United States Government treats Social Security, they would have arrested me and my business. It would have been illegal.

Let me show why that is true and explain Social Security. It is pretty straightforward.

The United States Government is collecting $418 billion in taxes from the workers of this country under the heading of Social Security. It is paying out to our senior citizens $353 billion. Now, obviously, if there is more money coming in in this system than what is going out, there is some money left over.

Social Security, the way it is set up today, is working. They are collecting more money than they are paying out to seniors in benefits; and the reason they are doing that, they are doing that because they recognize that in the not too distant future the baby boomers start to retire and these two numbers are going to turn around. There is going to be more money going out in benefits than there is coming from the taxpayers.

Now, at that point we are supposed to be able to go to this surplus that has been accumulating. You see this extra money, it is supposed to be set aside in a savings account. When these two numbers turn around and there is not enough money coming in to pay the benefits to our seniors, at that point we are supposed to be going to the savings account, getting the money out of the savings account and making good on the Social Security system.

Let me give a couple of dates. If this system were working the way it is laid out here on this chart, Social Security is safe at least to the year 2029. So as we are listening to the State of the Union this evening, it is very, very important that we understand that if Social Security were working the way it was set up and designed, the system is solvent at least to 2029 and potentially significantly beyond that year.

However, and this should not come as a surprise to many Americans, I know out in Wisconsin when I talk with folks it is not a big surprise to them, that is not what is happening in Washington.

□ 1530

That extra money that is coming from Social Security is being put immediately into the big government checkbook. If this is the extra money coming in, those dollars are put immediately into the general fund, or think of it as the big government checkbook. The Government then spends all the money out of that big government checkbook, and there is no money left to put down here in the Social Security Trust Fund where it belongs. So as a result, they put it in the big government checkbook. They spend all the money out of the checkbook, and at the end of the year they simply make an accounting entry and put an IOU down here in the Trust Fund.

It should be clear that when we say the budget is balanced, what we are really saying is that this checkbook over here equals zero, or if there is a surplus, there is a little bit of money left in that checkbook over there. So that includes this $65 billion that came from Social Security was put into this account. It was then spent. And when they say the budget is balanced, that means they have spent that Social Security surplus as well, and IOU's are put down here.

Tonight when we listen to the State of the Union Address, what I hope we will hear the President do is talk about a bill that we had proposed first 2 years ago when I first came here in 1995 to stop this, and more recently last year when we generated nearly 100 sponsors here in the House of Representatives. The bill is called the Social Security Preservation Act. It is bill number H.R. 857.

What the Social Security Preservation Act does, bill number H.R. 857, is it simply takes that Social Security money, that $65 billion, and puts it directly into the Social Security Trust Fund. That means the Social Security money is not even getting into the big government checkbook.

What does that mean? Well, if we go back to this other picture, if we go back to this other picture where that Social Security money got put into the checkbook, and then they spent all the money out of the checkbook, and that is what they mean by a balanced budget, utilizing that Social Security money, the checkbook is not overdrawn. What that means is that if we do not put that money in the big government checkbook, we put it immediately down here in the Social Security Trust Fund where it belongs, that means there is still a shortfall here.

So when we talk about surpluses, it is important to know that what they actually mean here in Washington is that there is more money in the checkbook than what has been spent, but part of that money is the Social Security money. To the extent our President tonight suggests that we take that extra money and put it down here in the Social Security Trust Fund, so that Social Security is once again solvent for our senior citizens, I think you will find not only myself but other Members of this Congress supporting him.

There is a lot of other things going on tonight. I think virtually every American at this point in time knows that there are going to be distractions from this speech tonight due to some private things that are happening in his personal life. We should let these facts unfold slowly, take a deep breath and see what the truth is. Nobody wants to downplay the significance of them, but they have not been proven at this point in time.

So for tonight, let us focus on these kinds of issues that are most important, and while these facts are unfolding on the other side here, let us focus on doing what is right for the future of the country. Let us keep our eyes where they belong, focused on the good of the future of this Nation that we live in.

I think it is very, very important as we discuss the Social Security issue that we understand that beyond the problems the President is having, again, I do not want to downplay them because I do not find them acceptable, but beyond those problems we do have issues facing this country that are very, very important to the country. And we do not want to lose track and lose sight of the vision that we have for the future as it relates to Social Security.

Let me suggest a vision. The first vision is this: We stop Washington from

spending the money that is supposed to be going into the Trust Fund. We get the money put back in the Trust Fund that is supposed to have been put there in the first place. If we were to do that by the year 2002, there would be about $1.2 trillion sitting down here to guarantee the solvency of Social Security to our senior citizens.

At that point in time, that Social Security money is actually down here in the Trust Fund; there is real dollars there. At that point in time, if somebody wants to begin a discussion about something else relating to Social Security, I would listen to it. But before that discussion even begins, we need to make sure that the money is down here in the Trust Fund so Social Security is solvent for our senior citizens.

I have got a couple other charts that I would like to look at just briefly to kind of remind us where we are at as we focus on the State of the Union Address. This first chart that I have here shows the growth of the national debt from 1960 all the way up to 1995. I think it is very, very important we keep this picture in mind as we keep hearing these words, expansion of, expansion of, expansion of; bigger Washington; Washington helping people, as opposed to people helping themselves; Washington doing it as opposed to people doing what is right for themselves; Washington collecting the money out of the pockets of people so Washington can expand their programs.

We need to keep this picture in mind tonight. This shows the growth of debt from 1960 to 1995. You will notice the debt did not grow very much from 1960 to 1980, but from 1980 forward it has grown right off the chart. Again, I know all the Democrats say, that is the year Reagan was elected; and all the Republicans go, if the Democrats had not spent all that extra money in those years, we would not be in this mess.

The facts are, it does not matter if it is a Democrat or Republican problem at this point in time. It is an American problem because we are right at the top of that chart right now. We better do something about it before it is too late.

I am happy to say that the growth rate has been slowed dramatically, and we are in the process of changing it. But when we listen to the State of the Union tonight and they talk about spending this extra money, let us not forget this picture.

The debt today in this Nation is about $5.3 trillion. The number looks like this for the folks that have not seen it before. If you divide that number by the number of people in the United States of America, our Government is in debt $20,000 for every man, woman and child in the United States of America. I have got three kids and a wife at home in Wisconsin. For our family of five, that means the United States Government has borrowed $100,000.

Here is the real kicker. It is this bottom line here that is the most significant thing on here. This is real debt. Interest is being paid on this debt. A family of five like mine is literally paying $580 a month every month to do absolutely nothing but pay interest on the Federal debt. A lot of people say, well, that does not include me. I am not paying that much in taxes. Wrong. When you do something as simple as walk in a store and buy a pair of shoes for your kids, the store owner makes a profit on that pair of shoes, and part of that profit comes out here to Washington in the form of taxes, and, you guessed it, one out of every $6 that they send out here goes right back here to do nothing but pay interest on the Federal debt.

This needs to be kept in mind as we listen to the State of the Union tonight. We do not have a surplus that is available for spending. The United States Government is collecting too much taxes and doing too many things in this country, and we have run up this debt that needs to be addressed.

I would like to talk a little bit about how we got here, and I think we should give credit to how different things are right now today. What I have got here is a picture of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill of 1986. There was also one in 1985. Many Americans remember Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. Many Americans remember the budget deal of 1990. All of these things were going on in the past.

The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings of 1987, by the way they all looked the same, here is the blue line that shows how the deficit was supposed to go down to zero by the year 1993. The red line shows what actually happened out here in Washington. Promise after promise after promise was made to balance the Federal budget, and, in fact, promise after promise after promise was broken to the American people. In fact, in 1993, they looked at this deficit in Washington, and Washington concluded, we cannot control Washington spending. The only thing we can do is reach into the pockets of the American people. And it was in 1993 that they decided to close this gap. What they would do is reach into the pockets of the American people and take out more taxes.

What exactly did they do? Well, they raised the gasoline tax by 4.3 cents a gallon. They did not even spend it on building roads. They raised Social Security taxes on seniors earning $32,000 a year or more. They raised some marginal tax bracket. They raised taxes, period. They reached into the pockets of the American people, took more money out here in Washington, and their idea of balancing the budget was simply collecting more money from the people as opposed to controlling the growth of Washington spending.

I think it is important as we look back and remember the past, the broken promises and the higher taxes, that we also evaluate if there is anything different from 1995 to 1998. When the Republicans took over in the year 1995, we laid out a plan to get to a balanced budget, and, in all fairness, the President signed into this plan as well. Again, we promised the American people a balanced budget by the year 2002.

The American people yawned; they laughed at us. They said, you are just like all the rest. You will not get this budget balanced. Again, I qualify this, as we started this discussion today, when they say balanced budget, that means the dollars in equals the dollars being spent. But I am happy to say that for the first time we are not only on track to balancing the budget, but, in fact, we have balanced the budget for the first time statistically in the books. From December 1, 1996 to November 30, 1997, the United States Government did not spend more money than they had in their checkbook. In fact, this red line did hit zero.

Is there a difference? Here is Gramm-Rudman-Hollings of the past. Here is what we are doing today, and, in fact, yes, there is a very big difference.

I hear a lot of discussion about how this happened and how this came about. There are two ways to balance the budget. One thing you can do is continue Washington growth in spending and just let things go up out here, reach into the pockets of the American people and get more money out here in Washington. That was the 1993 plan; that was not the 1995 plan. The 1995 plan was to control the growth of Washington spending. When we were elected, we recognized that the American people did not want more Washington and more taxes. What they wanted was a balanced budget by reducing the growth of Washington spending. They wanted less Washington and more money in their own pockets.

Again, I think it is important we look at statistically what has happened. I brought a picture with me to show this. Here is how fast spending was growing before 1995. It was growing at a 5.2 percent annual rate. Here is how fast spending is going up since 1995: 3.2 percent. And as a matter of fact, last year, the numbers are now in, this number is only 2.6 percent. So the growth rate of Washington spending has been cut literally in half in less than 3 years.

I would encourage my colleagues to do this at town hall meetings. I have been asking my constituents which one of two things they think is most likely to happen. Listen carefully to these two choices. The first one is that a Martian spaceship lands in the back yard, and the Martians get out of it, come in, have a cup of coffee, go back in the spaceship and go back to Mars. Second one is that the United States

Government got more than $100 billion of unexpected revenue and did not spend it.

What happens with most of my constituents is they start laughing and going for the coffee pot because they do not believe it is possible that the United States Government got $100 billion in unexpected revenue and did not spend it. But the facts again are statistically in the books. In 1995, when we got here, we laid out a spending plan. We said we would not spend more than $1,624 billion in the year 1997, and, in fact, we spent about $20 billion less than that.

For anyone who has a hard time believing this, do not feel bad. When I told my wife these numbers for the first time, she said somebody in Washington was lying to me, just to give you an idea that in our house we do not always trust it all either.

I encourage you go to the Internet. This information is available. Check out the 1995 budget plan, how much we said we were going to spend in 1997, and then check out how much was actually spent so you understand just how far we have come.

At the same time look at the revenue projections. The revenue projections were about $1,450 billion; $1,555 billion actually came in. That is to say, over $100 billion of unexpected revenue came in, and we spent 20 billion less than promised. That is an amazing accomplishment in this country. It is a statistical fact that is easily checked out, and I would encourage my colleagues to start talking about this because it helps the American people understand just how different this country is today versus where we were a few years back.

What else has happened on account of this? I don't think we should just look at balancing the budget and where we are at today. I think we should look at where we are going to in the future. With this slowed growth of spending at the same time our economy is remaining strong, we are going to start running surpluses under Washington's definition. As these surpluses start to develop, I think the first thing we need to do is pay attention to the Social Security Trust Fund. That money that has been taken out of the Social Security Trust Fund needs to be put back.

We have written a bill in our office called the National Debt Repayment Act. Remember all that Social Security money is part of that $5.4 to $5.3 trillion debt. In the National Debt Repayment Act, what we do with these, quote, surpluses, we take two-thirds of the surpluses and start repaying the Federal debt. In repaying the Federal debt, all of that money that belongs in the Social Security Trust Fund gets put back into the Social Security Trust Fund, and Social Security is solvent at least to the year 2029 and beyond.

We do not need anything else in Social Security to make it solvent. So if you hear anybody else talking about tampering with Social Security because it is going bankrupt, my colleagues, you need to go to those people and say the real problem is that that money needs to be put back in the Trust Fund. National Debt Repayment Act, two-thirds of the surplus goes to paying down the Federal debt, much like you would repay a home mortgage, and in paying down a debt, the money gets put back into the Social Security Trust Fund.

There is going to be a lot of competition for that other third. In our bill we return that other third to the American people in the form of tax cuts.

There are two things wrong in this Nation, as I see it, as we look at our vision for the future. One is that we still got this $5 trillion plus dollar debt hanging over our heads that we are about to pass on to our children. The second one is that the Social Security Trust Fund Is going too high. Third one is that taxes are too high.

The National Debt Repayment Act repays the Federal debt so our children inherit a debt-free Nation. It puts the money back into the Social Security Trust Fund so Social Security is once again solvent, and it lowers taxes for virtually every taxpayer in the United States of America.

I would keep going back to this chart because this chart is the key to everything. As long as we can control the growth of Washington spending, as long as we can slow down how fast this government is growing, as long as we can slow down the expansions that you are going to hear about tonight, as long as we stay firmly rooted in this concept that we cannot let this government grow, we will be in a position to continue the tax cuts, to make payments on the Federal debt and to restore our Social Security Trust Fund.

□ 1545

Speaking of tax cuts, I did not mention that for the first time in nearly 16 years there was a significant tax cut passed last year. And again I go back to this chart. Had the spending in this column since 1995 been up here at the same level it was before, we would not only not have a balanced budget, but we also could not talk about tax cuts to the American people. But because this spending has been slowed, and remember in the most current year it is down to 2.6 percent, because this spending has been slowed, we are now in a position where we have a balanced budget, we can make the first payment on the Federal debt, much like we would make a home mortgage payment, we can restore the Social Security trust fund so Social Security is solvent for our seniors, and we can lower taxes on working Americans.

Last year we passed the first significant tax cuts. And I would encourage my colleagues again at their town hall meetings to talk with their constituents first and foremost about the $400 per child tax credits.

If a worker looks at their paycheck from December of last year and then they look at their paycheck for January of this year, for every child under the age over 17, the paycheck in January of this year should be $33 per month higher.

I will say that once more. This $400 per child tax credit for every child under the age of 17; if a worker does absolutely nothing, they will get the 400 bucks at the end of the year. But if a worker is smart enough to go in and change their W–4 form, and it is very, very simple, you walk into your placement and ask for a new W–4 form. When you fill out the new W–4 form, what will happen is it will give you another $33 per month per child under the age of 17 in your take-home pay.

What is really going on here? What is really going on is when we look at your paycheck and the money that you have earned, the American people, $33 a month that was coming to Washington is now going to stay in the hands of our constituents and the families back home in Wisconsin and across America.

I have been asking my constituents the question. I find one that has a couple of kids, or three kids ideally, because if you have three children under the age of 17, the tax cut literally means $100 per month more in the home. And I have been simply asking this very common sense question. If we are talking a hundred dollars a month that that family has earned, who can spend that money better, the people in Washington, albeit with good intentions, the people in Washington; or do you think that family could spend that hundred dollars a month better in their own homes if they kept it instead of sending it to Washington? That is what the tax cuts are all about.

We did not stop at the $400 per child tax cut. If you have a college student that is a freshman or sophomore, in the vast majority of cases you are eligible for a $1500 tuition tax credit.

I was at a college over the break here and I was talking to a group of about 800, and apparently they were in from all over the country at this particular college group. And I told them about this $1500 per student tax credit. Sunday night in my house I got a call from a young lady in Tennessee. She had seven children. They were earning about $70,000 a year. Why it was Tennessee instead of Wisconsin, I cannot tell you, except these young people must have been in the audience and struggling to pay their college tuition bills.

So she started talking to me, "Mark, how do we actually do this?" I said, "Well, listen, you have a sophomore in college. They are paying about $3,000 for their tuition, in this particular case, after all the other grants and

things. That means you are going to get a $1500 tax credit for that sophomore in college. What you need to do is go in and change your W–4 form to take more exemptions and start keeping an extra $125 a month right now."

One of the problems with tax cuts is that you do not get the money back until next April, one of the problems is that those college bills are coming due right now, today. So what the workers need to do is go in and change their W–4 form. If they have a freshman or sophomore in college, it is $125 a month or $1500 total. Just start keeping that extra money. Increase the withholding to the point where the take-home pay goes up increases $125 a month and send that on to the college student to help pay their tuition.

If you have a junior or senior, grad student, et cetera, it is 20 percent of the first 5,000 up to 1,000 maximum. So for parents of college students who are juniors, seniors, grad students, et cetera, it is 20 percent of the first 5,000 up to $1,000 maximum. And, again, just go in and change your W–4 form.

Here is what will happen. For those people that do not go in and change their W–4s and start keeping the money now, that means it is in your money, you are sending it out here to Washington, Washington will see this big heap of money out here and they are going to want to and spend it. So you could be a tremendous service to this country if you would go in and change your W–4s and keep your own money instead of sending it out here. Because once it gets out here, the temptation to spend it is enormous. And you will hear that in the State of the Union this evening, if you have not heard it already.

Couple of other things on tax cuts. If you own a home and you sell your home, you have lived in it for 2 years or more, in virtually every case in America today, virtually every case, there is no longer any federal taxes due when you sell that house.

If you have invested in stocks and bonds, I have been doing a very interesting thing in my town halls at home. When I go out and meet with constituents, I ask a roomful of people how many of you have invested in a stock, bond or mutual fund of any sort. And I have found that almost every hand in the room goes up in almost every case. Well, when you make a profit on your stocks and bonds, and by the way, I for one sincerely hope the people making an investment in this country, that buy stocks, bonds or mutual funds, I sincerely hope you make a profit doing it. I really do, because that is what investment is all about.

The difference is that the capital gains tax rate, the rate you pay on the profit that you make, has been reduced from 28 cents out of every dollar you earn down to 20 percent out of every dollar you earn. I have to keep referring this back to what is going on out here. I want to refer to this chart once more. When we hear about these tax cuts and our families keeping more of their own money in their own families, what we are really talking about is Washington not spending this extra money. This is how fast spending was going up before. This is how fast it is going up now.

And when we talk about getting to a balanced budget ahead of schedule, sure the economy is strong, very true, but it is also the fact Washington has chosen not to spend this money and, instead, let the families keep that money in their own home. Let those people that invest in stocks and bonds and mutual funds and make a profit, let them keep more of that profit they make. That is what this is all about.

Another one that is very, very important, the education savings account, I call this the grandparent account. If there is a family out there with kids and they would like to save for the kids' college tuition, they can now put $500 per child into a savings account to save up for the kids' college tuition. I call it the grandparents' account because a lot of times grandparents' will make this $500 deposit.

Roth IRA for the empty nesters who say none of that stuff affects me. Many of those folks in their 40s and early 50s, where the kids are grown and gone, they are saving up for their own retirement. In the Roth IRA it is $2,000 a person that can be put away and saved. When you take that money out in retirement, there is absolutely no taxes paid on the interest or the appreciation of whatever it is that you have put into the Roth IRA account. There are absolutely no taxes due on any of the earnings when you take it out at retirement. This is a phenomenal change in the Tax Code to encourage savings and investment in our land.

I am going to conclude my portion here today by talking about one last tax cut that I think is very important for the future, and I think it says a lot about what a lot of us believe that are serving here in Congress today, and that is the adoption tax credit.

In the past it has cost $10,000 to adopt a child in this country, and there are many families that would like to adopt children and just plain cannot because of the cost involved. We have changed the tax code so there is now a $5,000 adoption tax credit to help those families that would like to adopt children.

In summarizing, we have come a long ways in a few years. We are through those broken promises of Gramm–Rudman-Hollings I and Gramm–Rudman-Hollings II, the budget deal of '90, the budget deal of '93. That stuff is in the past. Raising taxes to get to a balanced budget, that is in the past. That is not what is going on out here any more.

Controlling the growth of Washington spending, slowing down how fast spending is growing in this government. I would like to see this get down to a zero at some point. So we have a long ways to go. But by slowing the growth of Washington spending, coupled by a strong economy, we have actually reached a balanced budget not in 2002 as promised, but rather 4 years ahead of schedule.

We are about to make the first payment, and here is our vision for the future, we are about to make the first payment on that debt. And over a period of time we have the plan written to pay off the Federal debt so our children can receive this Nation absolutely debt free. As we pay that debt off, Social Security is restored. The money that has been taken out is part of that debt, so we pay that money back into Social Security and Social Security is solvent for our seniors.

The third part of the vision is that we continue to lower taxes on American workers because we know the tax rate in this country is too high. That is where we are going.

So as you listen to the State of the Union tonight, I think it is very, very important that we understand that if you hear the word "expansion," that means more Washington. And just temper your reaction to these new good programs with an understanding that expansion means the American people send more money to Washington so Washington can decide how to spend that money as opposed to Washington spending less money, leaving it in the pockets of the American people for them to decide how they can best spend their money in their families.

DEMOCRATS UNITED BEHIND PRO-FAMILY, PRO-CHILD MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I do not intend to use all of the time this evening. I will be joined by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and we wanted to briefly, if we could, talk a little bit about the Democrats' unity behind the pro-family and pro-child message that we know will be an important part of the President's State of the Union address this evening.

I think it is fair to say that for the last few years, and certainly in this past year in 1997, the Democrats have stressed the need for measures that basically help the family, help the average family in this country, particularly those who have children, and a big part of that has been affordable health care.

We all realize, and Democrats in particular realize, that more and more people in this country do not have

health care insurance. And even if they do have health care insurance, a lot of times they are not getting the quality of care or they do not have the access to all the procedures that they should have.

In addition to that, there is a real problem in this country in terms of the availability of child care for America's working families.

And also pensions. Many of my constituents have complained to me about lack of adequate pensions, people that were promised pensions, or thought that when they retired that pensions were going to be available to them and all of a sudden find out that they are not.

So tonight the President will be stressing this Democratic pro-family, pro-child message, and there are just four points that I wanted to highlight. One is the need for more affordable and accessible health care for what we call the near elderly, those seniors aged 55 to 65 that have a greater risk of losing employer-based health insurance but yet are not eligible for Medicare.

Democrats are proposing a targeted and self-financing proposal which will enable Americans ages 62 to 65 to buy into Medicare by paying a premium. And they will also provide coverage to displaced workers over 55 through Medicare and COBRA coverage for those whose companies renege on their commitments to provide retiree health benefits.

Also, Democrats are very conscious of the fact that there are problems with managed care in this country, and we are going to work, and the President will talk tonight about high quality health care through a consumer Bill of Rights that he has proposed. No patient should be denied high quality care. Care should be based on medical needs and not financial ones.

So a big part of the Democratic agenda this year will be managed care reform and basic consumer protections for individuals in HMOs or managed care organizations.

Also, Democrats want to invest in child care for America's working families. The President will announce a historic initiative to improve the quality and availability of child care for all parents. Democrats are working to ensure that parents no longer have to make choices between work or not working that basically revolve about whether or not they have access to child care.

And lastly, Democrats want, and the President will talk tonight about the effort to achieve secure and comfortable retirement. For more than 50 million American workers, there is no pension coverage. And Democrats will work to promote pension plans among small businesses.

I do not want to take up a lot of time. I want to yield to my colleague from Texas, who has been so much involved over the last year, in 1997 and before, in bringing this pro-family, pro-child message to the floor of the House of Representatives. I would yield to her at this time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership and for allowing us to have an opportunity through a special order to address the American people and to emphasize the Democrats united message.

For many of us returning to Washington, we were certainly asked what would be the focus of this next year, and I am very glad to say that we have not strayed away, with the leadership of the President, from what are really truly important issues to this country, and that has to be more affordable and accessible health care.

I could not have been more pleased when the President announced more than 2 weeks ago the idea that individuals 55 to 65 had a greater risk of losing health insurance or coverage, and that he wanted to stand on the side of those hard working Americans who might have fallen on hard times because of downsizing and with an inability to have health coverage, that they would be eligible for Medicare. That is not a throw-away of good dollars, that is a providing an enhancement of dollars, and I think that is extremely importantly.

□ 1600

I also want to say that I could not be more enthusiastic about a consumer bill of rights as it relates to health care.

I have experienced it personally. I know how families sometimes are subjected to difficult decisions; and, therefore, when they need a consumer bill of rights most, it is when they need medical care, and decisions have to be made. We need to be able to ensure patients that the patient-doctor relationship is a sacred relationship. It will not be tampered with because of financial concerns and because someone has to save money moving people from one hospital to the next, dumping people out of hospitals. I think that is extremely important.

I would like to add two other points about the importance of the State of the Union and unity of Democrats leading out in this country along with my colleagues who are thinking along the lines of making this economy better but also working with people who need our help most, that is America's working families, child care.

Chairing the Congressional Children's Caucus, I had the pleasure of being with the First Lady when she had the Child Care Symposium just before we left in the late fall of 1997 for our district work session. And everywhere I have gone, the working families, men and women, single parents, two-parent families, have talked about the big chunk that child care takes out of their paychecks. We need to find a way to be catalytic, to be helpful in making sure that we have a child care system that works.

My colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), mentioned something very, very important and that was the pension system, or Social Security. For some reason or another, people think that because Democrats helped bring about Social Security that we don't know how to fix it or to work with some of the problems. Our position is, let us not eliminate it; let us not accuse it of the wrongs; let us make sure we emphasize the rights of Social Security. It has given people the privilege of being secure in their old age without the big company pensions that many people have had the pleasure of having but a lot of working men and women in America have not had the pleasure.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I did not mention Social Security. But I know that the President is going to emphasize it tonight.

I think that the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) brings up a very good point; and that is, the Republicans I think want us to forget or want the American people to forget that Social Security works. It has been working. People have gotten their checks. They have gotten their COLA on an annual basis.

It does bother me, I have to say, to some extent to hear these constant references to the fact that the system is broken or that we need to find alternatives to Social Security and different private-sector options that are out there.

I am not saying that we should not study those things. But I think there has been a concerted effort on the part of our Republican colleagues and the Republican leadership to give the impression to the American people that the Social Security system is broken and it cannot be fixed. That is simply not the case. Everyone gets a Social Security check. People have gotten a COLA on a regular basis.

It is true that we need to study what needs to be done to make sure that in the future that Social Security is there and is intact, and Democrats are certainly a big part of that and have been emphasizing that there does need to be some attention paid to that. But, what is the expression, let us not throw out the baby with the bath water?

Social Security works, and we need to emphasize that. Too often I hear from the other side that somehow it is broken or we need to replace it. I do not want our colleagues on either side of the aisle or the American people to think that that is the case. It is not, and it is simply not true.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) very much for yielding.

Let me say that I would be very hesitant, very hesitant and quite concerned if we were to take on the cry of fire in a crowded theater with respect to Social Security, when it has worked for years and years and years.

Let me conclude by mentioning some other very important items that I see, at least at this juncture, in this State of the Union that we can be very proud of. That is why Democrats are unified around the President's message.

Do we realize that the President is offering to present to the American public 100,000 new teachers for grades 1 to 3, a school construction plan that generated out of the work? As I see the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, a lot of work went into this whole idea of school construction. And I see, I think, my good friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), as well, who is coming to join us. These are important issues that we must deal with in the State of the Union and, as well, in looking to a program forthright.

So I think that we have a lot to be proud of. We have a mentoring program that the President is going to be offering; and I would say to anyone who walks past a school, if they can take 5 minutes to go inside and say something to a student, they are going to see the fruit borne on that over and over again.

Then they have the continue moving people from welfare to work, which is a very important part of his message, as well as three points: an increase in empowerment zones for those of us in urban areas, community development banks, providing tax incentives for low-income housing. And, of course, he is going to continue, as we just celebrated and commemorated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, the race initiative.

So I think we have a lot to share this evening, a lot to celebrate. Because we are on a new vision, a new path that continues, but we are still moving in a direction that helps those people who need the help most. And I am very glad to join my colleague here on the floor to speak about some very important items that will be raised tonight in the President's State of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman; and I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), who has for several years now been talking about the need for this school construction program.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I was just walking by and I heard my distinguished colleagues referring to the important initiatives that are going to be discussed in the State of the Union, and I wanted to thank them because these issues are what people really care about. We all are coming back today, and most of us have had discussions in our district with seniors, visited schools, had many meetings, hearings on Medicare, on child care, on issues of concern to real people. My constituents wanted us to come here and solve problems. That is what this is all about. We are here to solve problems.

My colleague referred to the terrible conditions of some of our schools. We talk about educating youngsters. We talk about standards. We talk about more teachers. But if the school buildings are falling apart, then it is pretty difficult to focus attention on the agenda in those buildings.

I have visited some schools where there is plastic on the ceiling holding up the walls. These roofs have been leaking for years. And children are sitting in classrooms under conditions that I certainly do not think most of us would want our children to be in.

So I was particularly pleased that, after all of us have been working many, many years to build support for partnership with local governments on school construction, that the President is taking a strong position to assist local governments to repair our schools.

Again, this is a partnership. The Federal Government is not just going to go in and say, here you are, here is the money. These are partnerships. And if we can develop partnerships in highways and prisons and a whole myriad of uses, then it seems to me we should be investing in our school construction. I was very pleased to see that in the President's initiatives.

Also, when it comes to child care, many of us understand that if we are going to put people to work, we have a responsibility to be sure that our children, our future, are well-taken care of. And, again, I want to congratulate this administration in putting forth the proposal to really invest in child care and making sure there are enough slots for the children in all of our communities and also to be sure that there are regulations in place so a mother who put her child in child care or a father who puts his child in child care knows that those children will be safe. So child care is another proposal that we all have to rally around.

And Medicare extension. This is a problem that is brought up to me all the time. Why should people not be able to buy into Medicare to be sure that they have the health care that they need? This is brought up in the senior centers, in casual meetings, in the supermarkets. People are worried about health care, and this is a very important proposal. I was very pleased that my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), that he tried to quiet the fears of many people that Medicare is going broke.

We have reformed, we have strengthened Medicare since its founding in the 1960s. Yes, we have to make changes. We have to be sure that Medicare and Social Security are solid programs when the baby-boomers come of age. But Medicare and Social Security are not going broke in 1 year or 5 years or 10 years.

We have to address the challenges ahead, make sure there are programs for our baby-boomers so we can give them the benefits of these great, great programs. But let us not frighten seniors. They are worried and they are worried for the children and for the children's children.

So I know my colleague is committed and I am committed and we are committed to work to continue to strengthen Medicare, to strengthen Social Security. But let us not set off the alarm. I am very concerned that there are people on the other side of the aisle that are doing just that. Let us maintain our solid positions that these are important programs, but we have to move ahead constructively and not set the alarm bells.

So education, child care, health care, these are all things that people care about; and that is why I am so enthusiastic about the State of the Union this evening. I look forward to hearing it. We just talked about a few of the proposals. But food safety, genetic discrimination, this is a State of the Union message that is solid, and it is dedicated to the people of this country.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), again for discussing the State of the Union. I know we are committed to making sure that this will be a productive session, that we are here to focus on what really matters to real people to solve their problems, and this is a good kickoff to an agenda that matters to real people.

I thank my colleague again for leading this special order.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) again. I think she really summed up what tonight is all about, and that is trying it help the average American, the family, the children. That is what my constituents and I am sure all of our constituents are telling us; and, also, we are doing it in the context of this balanced budget.

The President keeps saying over and over again, look, we passed the Balanced Budget Act this past summer in 1997. We are meeting the guidelines of that. Even within that we can still help with some of these other pro-family measures. Many of them, as my colleagues know, either cost no money or very little money and in the long run actually saved the Federal Government money. He keeps stressing that.

I think that is important in the context of what he is going to state tonight. But I think it is a very auspicious beginning for 1998; and we have to work hard, as Democrats, to make sure

that the pro-family, pro-child agenda gets passed and that we can bring our Republican colleagues along.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m.

□ 2055

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 194 TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Bill Sims, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER);

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX);

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. DICKEY);

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO);

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. KENNELLY);

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY); and

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES);

The Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK);

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. FORD);

The Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI);

The Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY);

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI).

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER);

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN); and

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Roble Olhaye, Ambassador of the Republic of Djibouti.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Wilson Livingood, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of the 105th Congress, distinguished guests, my fellow Americans, since the last time we met in this Chamber, America has lost two patriots and fine public servants. Though they sat on opposite sides of the aisle, Representatives Walter Capps and SONNY BONO shared a deep love for this House and an unshakable commitment to improving the lives of all our people.

In the past few weeks, they have both been eulogized. Tonight I think we should begin by sending a message to their families and their friends that we celebrate their lives and give thanks to their service to our Nation.

For 209 years, it has been the President's duty to report to you on the State of the Union. Because of the hard work and high purpose of the American people, these are good times for America. We have more than 14 million new jobs. The lowest unemployment in 24 years. The lowest core inflation in 30 years. Incomes are rising, and we have the highest homeownership in history. Crime has dropped for a record five years in a row and the welfare rolls are at their lowest level in 27 years. Our leadership in the world is unrivaled. Ladies and gentlemen, the state of our union is strong.

But with barely 700 days left in the 20th Century, this is not a time to rest; it is a time to build, to build the America within our reach.

An America where everybody has a chance to get ahead with hard work. Where every citizen can live in a safe community. Where families are strong, schools are good, and all our young people can go on to college. An America where scientists find cures for diseases from diabetes to Alzheimer's to AIDS. An America where every child can stretch a hand across a keyboard and reach every book ever written, every painting ever painted, every symphony ever composed. Where government provides the opportunity and citizens honor the responsibility to give something back to their communities. An America which leads the world to new heights of peace and prosperity.

This is the America we have begun to build; this is the America we can leave to our children if we join together to finish the work at hand. Let us strengthen our Nation for the 21st Century.

Rarely have Americans lived through so much change, in so many ways, in so short a time. Quietly but with gathering force, the ground has shifted beneath our feet, as we have moved into an Information Age, a global economy, a truly new world.

For five years now, we have met the challenge of these changes, as Americans have at every turning point in our history, by renewing the very idea of America: widening the circle of opportunity, deepening the meaning of our freedom, forging a more perfect union.

We have shaped a new kind of government for the Information Age. I thank the Vice President for his leadership and the Congress for its support in building a government that is leaner, more flexible, a catalyst for new ideas. And most of all, a government that gives the American people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

We have moved past the sterile debate between those who say government is the enemy and those who say government is the answer. My fellow Americans, we have found a third way. We have the smallest government in 35 years, but a more progressive one. We have a smaller government, but a stronger Nation.

We are moving steadily toward an even stronger America in the 21st Century. An economy that offers opportunity. A society rooted in responsibility. And a Nation that lives as a community.

First, Americans in this Chamber and across our Nation have pursued a new strategy for prosperity: Fiscal discipline to cut interest rates and spur growth; investments in education and skills in science and technology and transportation to prepare our people for the new economy; new markets for American products and American workers.

When I took office, the deficit for 1998 was projected to be $357 billion, and heading higher. This year, our deficit is projected to be $10 billion, and heading lower. For three decades, six presidents have come before you to warn of the damage deficits pose to our Nation. Tonight, I come before you to announce that the Federal deficit, once so incomprehensibly large that it had 11 zeros, will be simply zero.

I will submit to Congress for 1999 the first balanced budget in 30 years. And if we hold fast to fiscal discipline, we may balance the budget this year, 4 years ahead of schedule. You can all be proud of that because turning a sea of red ink into black is no miracle. It is the product of hard work by the American people and of two visionary actions in Congress: the courageous vote in 1993 that led to a cut in the deficit of 90 percent and the truly historic bipartisan balanced budget agreement passed by this Congress.

Here is the really good news. If we maintain our resolve, we will produce balanced budgets as far as the eye can see. We must not go back to unwise spending or untargeted tax cuts that risk reopening the deficit. Last year, together, we enacted targeted tax cuts so that the typical middle class family will now have the lowest tax rates in 20 years.

My plan to balance the budget next year includes both new investments and new tax cuts targeted to the needs of working families: for education, for child care, for the environment.

But whether the issue is tax cuts or spending, I ask all of you to meet this test: approve only those priorities that can actually be accomplished without adding a dime to the deficit.

Now, if we balance the budget for next year, it is projected that we will then have a sizable surplus in the years that immediately follow. What should we do with this projected surplus? I have a simple, four-word answer: save Social Security first.

Tonight I propose that we reserve 100 percent of the surplus, that is every penny of any surplus, until we have taken all the necessary measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century. Let us say, let us say to all Americans watching tonight, whether you are 70 or 50 or whether you just started paying into the system, Social Security will be there when you need it.

Let us make this commitment: Social Security first. Let's do that together.

I also want to say that all the American people who are watching us tonight should be invited to join in this discussion, in facing these issues squarely and forming a true consensus on how we should proceed.

We will start by conducting nonpartisan forums in every region of the country, and I hope that lawmakers of both parties will participate. We will hold the White House conference on Social Security in December, and one year from now I will convene the leaders of Congress to craft historic bipartisan legislation to achieve a landmark for our generation, a Social Security system that is strong in the 21st century.

In an economy that honors opportunity, all Americans must be able to reap the reward of prosperity. Because these times are good, we can afford to take one simple, sensible step to help millions of workers struggling to provide for their families. We should raise the minimum wage.

The information age is first and foremost an education age in which education must start at birth and continue throughout a lifetime.

Last year from this podium I said that education has to be our highest priority. I laid out a ten-point plan to move us forward and urged all of us to let politics stop at the schoolhouse door. Since then, this Congress, across party lines, and the American people have responded in the most important year for education in a generation, expanding public school choice, opening the way to 3,000 new charter schools, working to connect every classroom in the country to the information superhighway, committing to expand Head Start to a million children, launching America Reads, sending literally thousands of college students into our elementary schools to make sure all our 8-year-olds can read.

Last year I proposed and you passed 220,000 new Pell Grant scholarships for deserving students. Student loans are already less expensive and easier to repay. Now you get to deduct the interest. Families all over America now can put their savings into new tax-free education IRAs. And this year for the first 2 years of college families will get a $1,500 tax credit, a Hope Scholarship that will cover the cost of most community college tuition. And for junior and senior year, graduate school and job training, there is a lifetime learning credit. You did that and you should be very proud of it.

And because of these actions, I have something to say to every family listening to us tonight: Your children can go on to college. If you know a child from a poor family, tell her not to give up. She can go on to college. If you know a young couple struggling with bills, worried they won't be able to send their children to college, tell them not to give up. Their children can go on to college. If you know somebody who's caught in a dead-end job and afraid he can't afford the classes necessary to get better jobs for the rest of his life, tell him not to give up. He can go on to college.

Because of the things that have been done, we can make college as universal in the 21st century as high school is today. And, my friends, that will change the face and future of America.

We have opened wide the doors of the world's best system of higher education. Now we must make our public elementary and secondary schools the world's best as well by raising standards, raising expectations and raising accountability.

Thanks to the actions of this Congress last year, we will soon have, for the very first time, a voluntary national test based on national standards in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math.

Parents have a right to know whether their children are mastering the basics, and every parent already knows the key: good teachers and small classes. Tonight I propose the first ever national effort to reduce class size in the early grades. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 new teachers who have passed a State competency test. Now, with these teachers, listen, with these teachers we will actually be able to reduce class size in the first, second and third grades to an average of 18 students a class all across America.

Now, if I have got the math right, more teachers teaching smaller classes requires more classrooms. So I also propose a school construction tax cut

to help communities modernize or build 5,000 schools.

We must also demand greater accountability. When we promote a child from grade to grade who hasn't mastered the work, we don't do that child any favors. It is time to end social promotion in America's schools.

Last year, last year in Chicago, they made that decision, not to hold our children back but to lift them up. Chicago stopped social promotion and started mandatory summer school to help students who are behind to catch up. I propose, I propose to help other communities follow Chicago's lead. Let's say to them, stop promoting children who don't learn and we will give you the tools to make sure they do.

I also ask this Congress to support our efforts to enlist colleges and universities to reach out to disadvantaged children starting in the 6th grade so that they can get the guidance and hope they need so they can know that they too will be able to go on to college.

As we enter the 21st century, the global economy requires us to seek opportunity not just at home but in all the markets of the world. We must shape this global economy, not shrink from it. In the last 5 years we have led the way in opening new markets with 240 trade agreements that remove foreign barriers to products bearing the proud stamp "Made in the USA".

Today, record high exports account for fully one-third of our economic growth. I want to keep them going, because that's the way to keep America growing and to advance a safer, more stable world.

Now, all of you know, whatever your views are, that I think this is a great opportunity for America. I know there is opposition to more comprehensive trade agreements. I have listened carefully, and I believe that the opposition is rooted in two fears: first, that our trading partners will have lower environmental and labor standards which will give them an unfair advantage in our market and do their own people no favors even if there's more business; and, second, that if we have more trade, more of our workers will lose their jobs and have to start over.

I think we should seek to advance worker and environmental standards around the world. I have made it abundantly clear that it should be a part of our trade agenda, but we cannot influence other countries' decisions if we send them a message that we're backing away from trade with them. This year I will send legislation to Congress and ask other nations to join us to fight the most intolerable labor practice of all: Abusive child labor.

We should also offer help and hope to those Americans temporarily left behind by the global marketplace or by the march of technology, which may have nothing to do with trade. That's why we have more than doubled funding for training dislocated workers since 1993. And if my new budget is adopted, we will triple funding. That's why we must do more, and more quickly, to help workers who lose their jobs for whatever reason. You know, we help communities in a special way when their military base closes. We ought to help them in the same way if their factory closes.

Again, I ask the Congress to continue its bipartisan work to consolidate the tangle of training programs we have today into one single GI bill for workers, a simple skills grant so people can, on their own, move quickly to new jobs, to higher incomes and brighter futures.

Now, we all know in every way in life change is not always easy, but we have to decide whether we're going to try to hold it back and hide from it or reap its benefits. And remember the big picture here. While we've been entering into hundreds of new trade agreements, we've been creating millions of new jobs. So this year we will forge new partnerships with Latin America, Asia and Europe, and we should pass the new African Trade Act. It has bipartisan support.

I will also renew my request for the fast track negotiating authority necessary to open more new markets, create more new jobs, which every President has had for two decades.

You know, whether we like it or not, in ways that are mostly positive, the world's economies are more and more interconnected and interdependent. Today an economic crisis anywhere can affect economies everywhere. Recent months have brought serious financial problems to Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and beyond.

Now, why should Americans be concerned about this? First, these countries are our customers. If they sink into recession, they won't be able to buy the goods we'd like to sell them. Second, they are also our competitors. So if their currencies lose their value and go down, then the price of their goods will drop, flooding our market and others with much cheaper goods, which makes it a lot tougher for our people to compete. And finally, they are our strategic partners. Their stability bolsters our security.

The American economy remains sound and strong, and I want to keep it that way. But because the turmoil in Asia will have an impact on all the world's economies, including ours, making that negative impact as small as possible is the right thing to do for America, and the right thing to do for a safer world.

Our policy is clear: No nation can recover if it does not reform itself. But when nations are willing to undertake serious economic reform, we should help them do it. So I call on Congress to renew America's commitment to the International Monetary Fund. I think we should say to all the people we are trying to represent here that preparing for a far-off storm that may reach our shores is far wiser than ignoring the thunder until the clouds are just overhead.

A strong Nation rests on the rock of responsibility. A society rooted in responsibility must first promote the value of work, not welfare. We can be proud that after decades of finger-pointing and failure, together we ended the old welfare system, and we are now replacing welfare checks with paychecks.

Last year, after a record 4-year decline in welfare rolls, I challenged our Nation to move 2 million more Americans off welfare by the year 2000. I am pleased to report we have also met that goal, 2 full years ahead of schedule.

This is a grand achievement, the sum of many acts of individual courage, persistence and hope. For 13 years, Elaine Kinslow of Indianapolis, Indiana, was on and off welfare. Today, she is a dispatcher with a van company, she saved enough money to move her family into a good neighborhood, and she is helping other welfare recipients go to work.

Elaine Kinslow and all those like her are the real heroes of the welfare revolution. There are millions like her all across America, and I am happy she could join the First Lady tonight.

Elaine, we are very proud of you. Please stand up.

We still have a lot more to do, all of us, to make welfare reform a success, providing child care, helping families move closer to available jobs, challenging more companies to join our welfare-to-work partnership, increasing child support collections from deadbeat parents who have a duty to support their own children.

I also want to thank Congress for restoring some of the benefits to immigrants who are here legally and working hard, and I hope you will finish that job this year.

We have to make it possible for all hard-working families to meet their most important responsibilities. Two years ago, we helped guarantee that Americans can keep their health insurance when they change jobs. Last year, we extended health care to up to 5 million children. This year, I challenge Congress to take the next historic steps.

One hundred sixty million of our fellow citizens are in managed care plans. These plans save money, and they can improve care. But medical decisions ought to be made by medical doctors, not insurance company accountants. I urge this Congress to reach across the aisle and write into law a Consumer Bill of Rights that says this: You have the right to know all your medical options, not just the cheapest. You have the right to choose the doctor you

want for the care you need. You have the right to emergency room care, wherever and whenever you need it. You have the right to keep your medical records confidential. Now, traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

Millions of Americans between the ages of 55 and 65 have lost their health insurance. Some are retired, some are laid off, some lose their coverage when their spouses retire. After a lifetime of work, they are left with nowhere to turn. So I ask the Congress, let these hard-working Americans buy into the Medicare system. It will not add a dime to the deficit, but the peace of mind it will provide will be priceless.

Next, we must help parents protect their children from the gravest health threat that they face, an epidemic of teen smoking, spread by multimillion-dollar marketing campaigns. I challenge Congress, let's pass bipartisan, comprehensive legislation that will improve public health, protect our tobacco farmers, and change the way tobacco companies do business forever. Let's do what it takes to bring teen smoking down. Let's raise the price of cigarettes by up to $1.50 a pack over the next 10 years, with penalties on the tobacco industry if it keeps marketing to our children. Now, tomorrow, like every day, 3,000 children will start smoking, and 1,000 will die early as a result. Let this Congress be remembered as the Congress that saved their lives.

In the new economy, most parents work harder than ever. They face a constant struggle to balance their obligations to be good workers, and their even more important obligations to be good parents.

The Family and Medical Leave Act was the very first bill I was privileged to sign into law as President in 1993. Since then, about 15 million people have taken advantage of it, and I have met a lot of them all across this country. I ask you to extend that law to cover 10 million more workers and to give parents time off when they have to go see their children's teachers or take them to the doctor.

Child care is the next frontier we must face to enable people to succeed at home and at work. Last year I cohosted the very first White House Conference on Child Care with one of our foremost experts, America's First Lady. From all corners of America we heard the same message without regard to region or income or political affiliation: We have to raise the quality of child care. We have to make it safer. We have to make it more affordable.

So here is my plan: Help families to pay for child care for 1 million more children. Scholarships and background checks for child care workers, and a new emphasis on early learning. Tax credits for businesses that provide child care for their employees. And the larger child care tax credit for working families.

Now, if you pass my plan, what this means is that a family of 4 with an income of $35,000 and high child care costs will no longer pay a single penny of Federal income tax.

You know, I think this is such a big issue with me because of my own personal experience. I have often wondered how my mother when she was a young widow would have been able to go away to school and get an education and come back and support me if my grandparents had not been able to take care of me. She and I were really very lucky. How many other families have never had that same opportunity? The truth is, we do not know the answer to that question, but we do know what the answer should be. Not a single American family should ever have to choose between the job they need and the child they love.

A society rooted in responsibility must provide safe streets, safe schools, and safe neighborhoods. We pursued a strategy of more police, tougher punishment and smarter prevention, with crime fighting partnerships with local law enforcement and citizen groups where the rubber hits the road. I can report to you tonight that it is working. Violent crime is down, robbery is down, assault is down, burglary is down for five years in a row all across America. Now we need to finish the job of putting 100,000 more police on our streets.

Again, I ask Congress to pass a juvenile crime bill that provides more prosecutors and probation officers to crack down on gangs and guns and drugs and bar violent juveniles from buying guns for life. And, I ask you to dramatically expand our support for after-school programs. I think every American should know that most juvenile crime is committed between the hours of 3 in the afternoon and 8 at night. We can keep so many of our children out of trouble in the first place if we give them some place to go other than the streets, and we ought to do it.

Drug use is on the decline. I thank General McCaffrey for his leadership, and I thank this Congress for passing the largest antidrug budget in history. Now I ask you to join me in a groundbreaking effort to hire 1,000 new Border Patrol agents and to deploy the most sophisticated available new technologies to help close the door on drugs at our borders. Police, prosecutors and prevention programs, as good as they are, they cannot work if our court system does not work. Today there are large numbers of vacancies in our Federal courts. Here is what the Chief Justice of the United States wrote: Judicial "vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice." I simply ask the United States Senate to heed this plea and vote on the highly qualified nominees before you up or down.

We must exercise responsibility not just at home, but around the world. On the eve of a new century, we have the power and the duty to build a new era of peace and security. But make no mistake about it, today's possibilities are not tomorrow's guarantees. America must stand against the poisoned appeals of extreme nationalism. We must combat an unholy axis of new threats from terrorists, international criminals and drug traffickers. These 21st century predators feed on technology and the free flow of information and ideas and people, and they will be all the more lethal if weapons of mass destruction fall into their hands.

To meet these challenges, we are helping to write international rules of the road for the 21st century, protecting those who join the family of nations, and isolating those who do not.

Within days, I will ask the Senate for its advice and consent to make Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic the newest members of NATO. For 50 years, NATO contained communism and kept America and Europe secure. Now these three formerly Communist countries have said yes to democracy. I ask the Senate to say yes to them, our new allies. By taking in new members and working closely with new partners, including Russia and Ukraine, NATO can help to assure that Europe is a stronghold for peace in the 21st century.

Next, I will ask Congress to continue its support for our troops and their mission in Bosnia. This Christmas, Hillary and I traveled to Sarajevo with Senator and Mrs. Dole and a bipartisan congressional delegation. We saw children playing in the streets where two years ago they were hiding from snipers and shells. The shops were filled with food, the cafes were alive with conversation.

The progress there is unmistakable, but it is not yet irreversible. To take firm root, Bosnia's fragile peace still needs the support of American and allied troops when the current NATO mission ends in June. I think Senator Dole actually said it best. He said, this is like being ahead in the fourth quarter of a football game. Now is not the time to walk off the field and forfeit the victory.

I wish all of you could have seen our troops in Tuzla. They are very proud of what they are doing in Bosnia and we are all very proud of them.

One of those brave soldiers is sitting with the First Lady tonight, Army Sergeant Michael Tolbert. His father was a decorated Vietnam vet. After college in Colorado, he joined the Army. Last year, he led an Infantry unit that stopped a mob of extremists from taking over a radio station that is a voice of democracy and tolerance in Bosnia.

Thank you very much, Sergeant, for what you represent. Please stand up.

In Bosnia, and around the world, our men and women in uniform always do their mission well. Our mission must be to keep them well-trained and ready, to improve their quality of life, and to provide the 21st Century weapons they need to defeat any enemy.

I ask Congress to join me in pursuing an ambitious agenda to reduce the serious threat of weapons of mass destruction. This year, four decades after it was first proposed by President Eisenhower, a comprehensive nuclear test ban is within reach. By ending nuclear testing we can help to prevent the development of new and more dangerous weapons and make it more difficult for non-nuclear states to build them.

I am pleased to announce that four former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Generals John Shalikashvili, Colin Powell, David Jones and Admiral William Crowe, have endorsed this treaty, and I ask the Senate to approve it this year.

Together, we must also confront the new hazards of chemical and biological weapons and the outlaw states, terrorists, and organized criminals seeking to acquire them.

Saddam Hussein has spent the better part of this decade and much of his nation's wealth not on providing for the Iraqi people but on developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the missiles to deliver them. The United Nations weapons inspectors have done a truly remarkable job, finding and destroying more of Iraq's arsenal than was destroyed during the entire Gulf War. Now, Saddam Hussein wants to stop them from completing their mission.

I know I speak for everyone in this chamber, Republicans and Democrats, when I say to Saddam Hussein: You cannot defy the will of the world. And when I say to him: You have used weapons of mass destruction before. We are determined to deny you the capacity to use them again.

Last year, the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention to protect our soldiers and citizens from poison gas. Now we must act to prevent the use of disease as a weapon of war and terror. The Biological Weapons Convention has been in effect for 23 years now. The rules are good, but the enforcement is weak. We must strengthen it with a new international inspection system to detect and deter cheating.

In the months ahead, I will pursue our security strategy with old allies in Asia and Europe, and new partners from Africa to India and Pakistan, from South America to China. And from Belfast to Korea to the Middle East, America will continue to stand with those who stand for peace.

Finally, it is long past time to make good on our debt to the United Nations. More and more, we are working with other Nations to achieve common goals. If we want America to lead, we have got to set a good example. As we see so clearly in Bosnia, allies who share our goals can also share our burdens.

In this new era, our freedom and independence are actually enriched, not weakened, by our increasing interdependence with other nations, but we have to do our part.

Our Founders set America on a permanent course toward "a more perfect union." To all of you I say it is a journey we can only make together, living as one community.

First, we have to continue to reform our government, the instrument of our national community.

Everyone knows elections have become too expensive, fueling a fundraising arms race. This year, by March the 6th, at long last the Senate will actually vote on bipartisan campaign finance reform proposed by Senators McCAIN and FEINGOLD. Let us be clear: A vote against McCain-Feingold is a vote for soft money and for the status quo. I ask you to strengthen our democracy and pass campaign reform this year.

But at least equally important, we have to address the real reason for the explosion in campaign costs: the high cost of media advertising. For the folks watching at home, those were the groans of pain in the audience.

I will formally request that the Federal Communications Commission act to provide free or reduced-cost television time for candidates who observe spending limits voluntarily. The airwaves are a public trust and broadcasters also have to help us in this effort to strengthen our democracy.

Under the leadership of Vice President GORE, we have reduced the Federal payroll by 300,000 workers, cut 16,000 pages of regulation, eliminated hundreds of programs, and improved the operations of virtually every government agency. But we can do more.

Like every taxpayer, I am outraged by the reports of abuses by the IRS. We need some changes there: New citizen advocacy panels, a stronger taxpayer advocate, phone lines open 24 hours a day, relief for innocent taxpayers. Last year, by an overwhelming bipartisan margin, the House of Representatives passed sweeping IRS reforms. This bill must not now languish in the Senate. Tonight I ask the Senate: Follow the House. Pass the bipartisan package as your first order of business.

I hope to goodness before I finish I can think of something to say "Follow the Senate" on so I will be out of trouble.

A nation that lives as a community must value all its communities.

For the past five years, we have worked to bring the spark of private enterprise to inner-city and poor rural areas with community development banks, more commercial loans into poor neighborhoods, cleanups of polluted sites for development.

Under the continued leadership of the Vice President, we proposed to triple the number of empowerment zones to give business incentives to invest in those areas. We should also give poor families more help to move into homes of their own, and we should use tax cuts to spur the construction of more low-income housing.

Last year this Congress took strong action to help the District of Columbia. Let us renew our resolve to make our capital city a great city for all who live and visit here.

Our cities are the vibrant hubs of great metropolitan areas. They are still the gateways for new immigrants from every continent who come here to work for their own American dreams. Let's keep our cities going strong into the 21st century. They are a very important part of our future.

Our communities are only as healthy as the air our children breathe, the water they drink, the Earth they will inherit.

Last year we put in place the toughest ever controls on smog and soot. We moved to protect Yellowstone, the Everglades, Lake Tahoe. We expanded every community's right to know about toxics that threaten their children.

Just yesterday our food safety plan took effect, using new signs to protect consumers from dangers like e-coli and salmonella.

Tonight I ask you to join me in launching a new clean water initiative, a far-reaching effort to clean our rivers, our lakes and our coastal waters for our children.

Our overriding environmental challenge tonight is the worldwide problem of climate change, global warming, the gathering crisis that requires worldwide action.

The vast majority of scientists have concluded unequivocally that if we do not reduce the emission of greenhouse gases at some point in the next century, we will disrupt our climate and put our children and grandchildren at risk.

This past December, America led the world to reach a historic agreement, committing our Nation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through market forces, new technologies, energy efficiency.

We have it in our power to act right here, right now. I propose $6 billion in tax cuts and research and development to encourage innovation, renewable energy, fuel-efficient cars, energy-efficient homes.

Every time we have acted to heal our environment, pessimists told us it would hurt the economy. Well, today our economy is the strongest in a generation. And our environment is the cleanest in a generation. We have always found a way to clean the environment and grow the economy at the

same time. And when it comes to global warming, we will do it again.

Finally, communities means living by the defining American value, the ideal heard round the world, that we are all created equal. Throughout our history we haven't always honored that ideal, and we have never fully lived up to it.

Often it is easier to believe that our differences matter more than what we have in common. It may be easier, but it is wrong. What must we do in our day and generation to make sure that America truly becomes one Nation? What do we have to do? We are becoming more and more diverse. Do you believe we can become one Nation?

The answer cannot be to dwell on our differences but to build on our shared values. We all cherish family and faith, freedom and responsibility. We all want our children to grow up in a world where their talents are matched by their opportunities.

I have launched this national initiative on race to help us recognize our common interests and to bridge the opportunity gaps that are keeping us from becoming one America.

Let us begin by recognizing what we still must overcome. Discrimination against any American is un-American. We must vigorously enforce the laws that make it illegal.

I ask your help to end the backlog at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Sixty thousand of our fellow citizens are waiting in line for justice, and we should act now to end their wait.

We should also recognize that the greatest progress we can make toward building one America lies in the progress we make for all Americans without regard to race. When we open the doors of college to all Americans, when we rid all our streets of crime, when there are jobs available to people from all our neighborhoods, when we make sure all parents have the child care they need, we are helping to build one Nation.

We, in this Chamber and in this government, must do all we can to address the continuing American challenge to build one America. But we will only move forward if all our fellow citizens, including every one of you at home watching tonight, is also committed to this cause. We must work together, learn together, live together, serve together. On the forge of common enterprise, Americans of all backgrounds can hammer out a common identity.

We see it today in the United States military, in the Peace Corps, in AmeriCorps. Wherever people of all races and backgrounds come together in a shared endeavor and get a fair chance, we do just fine. With shared values and meaningful opportunities and honest communication and citizen service, we can unite a diverse people in freedom and mutual respect. We are many. We must be one.

In that spirit, let us lift our eyes to the new millennium. How will we mark that passage? It just happens once every thousand years.

This year Hillary and I launched the White House Millennium Program to promote America's creativity and innovation and to preserve our heritage and culture into the 21st century. Our culture lives in every community, and every community has places of historic value that tell our stories as Americans. We should protect them. I am proposing a public-private partnership to advance our arts and humanities and to celebrate the millennium by saving America's treasures, great and small.

And while we honor the past, let us imagine the future.

Think about this, the entire store of human knowledge now doubles every 5 years. In the 1980s, scientists identified the gene causing cystic fibrosis. It took 9 years.

Last year scientists located the gene that causes Parkinson's disease in only 9 days. Within a decade, gene chips will offer a road map for prevention of illnesses throughout a lifetime. Soon we will be able to carry all the phone calls on Mother's Day on a single strand of fiber the width of a human hair. A child born in 1998 may well live to see the 22nd century.

Tonight, as part of our gift to the millennium, I propose a 21st Century Research Fund for path-breaking scientific inquiry, the largest funding increase in history for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the National Cancer Institute.

We have already discovered genes for breast cancer and diabetes. I ask you to support this initiative so ours will be the generation that finally wins the war against cancer and begins a revolution in our fight against all deadly diseases.

As important as all this scientific progress is, we must continue to see that science serves humanity, not the other way around. We must prevent the misuse of genetic tests to discriminate against any American. And we must ratify the ethical consensus of the scientific and religious communities and ban the cloning of human beings.

We should enable all the world's people to explore the far reaches of cyberspace. Think of this: The first time I made a State of the Union speech to you, only a handful of physicists used the Worldwide Web. Literally just a handful of people. Now, in schools and libraries, homes and businesses, millions and millions of Americans surf the net everyday.

We must give parents the tools they need to help protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet, but we also must make sure that we protect the exploding global commercial potential of the internet.

We can do the kinds of things that we need to do and still protect our kids. For one thing, I ask Congress to step up support for building the next generation Internet. It's getting kind of clogged, you know, and the next generation Internet will operate at speeds up to a thousand times faster than today.

Even as we explore this innerspace in the new millennium, we're going to open new frontiers in outer space. Throughout all history humankind has had only one place to call home: Our planet earth. Beginning this year, 1998, men and women from 16 countries will build a foothold in the heavens. The International Space Station, with its vast expanses, scientists and engineers will actually set sail on an uncharted sea of limitless mystery and unlimited potential, and this October a true American hero, a veteran pilot of 149 combat missions and one five-hour space flight that changed the world will return to the heavens. Godspeed, JOHN GLENN.

JOHN, you will carry with you America's hopes. And on your uniform once again you will carry America's flag, marking the unbroken connection between the deeds of America's past and the daring of America's future.

Nearly 200 years ago a tattered flag, its broad stripes and bright stars still gleaming through the smoke of a fierce battle moved Francis Scott Key to scribble a few word on the back of an envelope, the words that became our national anthem. Today that Star Spangled Banner, along with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are on display just a short walk from here. They are America's treasures and we must also save them for the ages.

I ask all Americans to support our project to restore all our treasures so that the generations of the 21st century can see for themselves the images and the words that are the old and continuing glory of America, an America that has continued to rise through every age, against every challenge, of people of great works and greater possibilities who have always, always found the wisdom and strength to come together as one nation, to widen the circle of opportunity, to deepen the meaning of our freedom, to form that more perfect union. Let that be our gift to the 21st century. God bless you and God bless the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m. the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order: The members of the President's Cabinet; the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of

the Supreme Court of the United States; the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SCHIFF (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today through February 13, on account of illness.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through February 3, on account of recovering from surgery.

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of a death in the family.

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. UNDERWOOD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. CRANE, for 5 minutes, on January 28.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. UNDERWOOD) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. MILLER of California.
Mr. MATSUI.
Mr. MURTHA.
Mr. SERRANO.
Mr. DOYLE.
Ms. ESHOO.
Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
Mrs. MEEK of Florida.
Mr. SKELTON.
Mr. FILNER.
Mr. BERMAN.
Mr. DIXON.
Mr. FAZIO of California.
Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
Mr. STARK.
Mr. GORDON.
Mr. VISCLOSKY.
Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
Mr. UNDERWOOD.
Mr. LEVIN.
Mr. GEJDENSON.
Mr. LAFALCE.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. NEUMANN) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. TALENT.
Mr. GOODLING.
Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
Mr. KIM.
Mr. BEREUTER.
Mr. GILMAN, in two instances.
Mr. RILEY.
Mr. SOLOMON.
Mr. WELLER.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. REGULA.
Mr. FOLEY.
Mr. MANTON.
Mr. HALL of Texas.
Mr. UPTON.
Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
Mr. THOMAS.
Mr. DELLUMS.
Mr. WAXMAN.
Mr. ACKERMAN.
Mr. HAMILTON.

SENATE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

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

S. 191. An act to throttle criminal use of guns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 758. An act to make certain technical corrections to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

S. 1172. An act for the relief of Sylvester Flis.

S. 1213. An act to establish a National Ocean Council, a Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes, and in addition, to the Committee(s) on Science and 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. 1566. An act to amend the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 to protect the voting rights of military personnel, and for other purposes, and in addition, to the Committee(s) on Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs, 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. Con. Res. 39. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the German Government should expand and simplify its reparations system, provide reparations to Holocaust survivors in Eastern and Central Europe, and set up a fund to help cover the medical expenses of Holocaust survivors.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 338, I move that the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Honorable SONNY BONO.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Resolution 338, and under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 28, 1998, at 1 p.m. in memory of the late Honorable SONNY BONO.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5946. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Fresh Bartlett Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Reduced Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV97-931-2 FIR] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5947. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Winter Pears Grown in Oregon, Washington, and California; Order Amending the Marketing Order [Docket Nos. AO-99-A7; FV96-927-1] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5948. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Revision to Part 46, Regulations Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act [Docket No. FV97-355] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5949. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Modifications to the Raisin Diversion Program [Docket No. FV97-989-3 IFR] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5950. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order; Referendum Procedures [FV-97-705IFR] received December 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5951. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Change in Handling Regulation for Area No. 2 [Docket No.

FV97-948-1 FIR] received December 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5952. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Winter Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV97-927-1 FIR] received December 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5953. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Grading and Inspection, General Specifications for Approved Plants and Standards for Grades of Dairy Product: Revision of User Fees [DA-97-13] (RIN: 0581-AB50) received December 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5954. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Pine Shoot Beetle; Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 97-100-1] received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5955. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Removal of an Area From Quarantine [Docket No. 97-056-8] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5956. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Approved Treatments [Docket No. 96-016-27] (RIN: 0579-AA83) received December 9, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5957. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Cattle Imported in BOND for Feeding and Return to Mexico [Docket No. 94-076-2] received December 9, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5958. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Importation of Sliced and Pre-Packaged Dry-Cured Pork Products [Docket No. 96-066-2] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5959. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Import/Export User Fees; Exemptions [Docket No. 96-089-1] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5960. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Removal of Mexican Border Regulations [Docket No. 97-037-2] received December 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5961. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantine Regulations [Docket No. 96-102-2] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5962. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Mexican Fruit Fly Regulations; Addition of Regulated Area [Docket No. 97-113-1] received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5963. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Belgium Because of BSE [Docket No. 97-115-1] received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5964. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Interstate Movement of Imported Plants and Plant Parts [Docket No. 96-061-2] (RIN: 0579-AA85) received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5965. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Luxembourg Because of BSE [Docket No. 97-118-1] received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5966. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Additions to Regulated Areas [Docket No. 96-016-26] (RIN: 0579-AA83) received December 1, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5967. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Arkansas [Docket No. 97-108-1] received December 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5968. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Compensation for Wheat Seed and Straw in the 1995-1996 Crop Season [Docket No. 96-016-25] (RIN: 0579-AA83) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5969. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cypermethrin; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300583; FRL-5755-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5970. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Zeta-Cypermethrin; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300577; FRL-5754-8] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5971. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-300579; FRL-5754-7] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5972. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Lambda-cyhalothrin; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300581; FRL-5755-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5973. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Budget, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule —Tefluthrin; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300576; FRL-5754-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5974. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Budget, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule —Fipronil; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-300587; FRL-5757-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5975. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fenarimol; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300559; FRL-5753-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5976. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Methyl Salicylate; Establishment of an Exemption from Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-300557; FRL-5746-1] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5977. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fomesafen; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300571; FRL-5752-8] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5978. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cyromazine; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300588; FRL-5758-2] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5979. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revocation of Tolerances for Commodities No Longer Regulated for Pesticide Residues and Other Actions [OPP-300503A; FRL-5753-1] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5980. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Maleic Hydrazide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300587; FRL-5754-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5981. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Sodium Chlorate; Exemption from Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300574;

FRL-5754-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5982. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pyrimethanil; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300589; FRL-5758-7] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5983. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fluorine Compounds; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300586; FRL-5756-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5984. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tebufenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300569; FRL-5751-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5985. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fenpropathrin; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300580; FRL-5755-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5986. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Dipropylene Glycol Dimethyl Ether; Final Significant New Use Rule; Correction [OPPTS-50621C; FRL-5757-6] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5987. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cyfluthrin; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-300582; FRL-5755-2] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5988. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fenvalerate; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-300575; FRL-5754-6] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5989. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Deltamethrin and Tralomethrin; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-300584; FRL-5756-2] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5990. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Hexythiazox; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300568; FRL-5750-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5991. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Ethalfluralin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300585; FRL-5756-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5992. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Primisulfuron-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300573; FRL-5753-6] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5993. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Chlorothalonil; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300590; FRL-5759-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5994. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Imidacloprid; Tolerance Extension for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300594; FRL-5760-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5995. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Myclobutanil; Tolerance Extension for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300591; FRL-5760-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5996. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fenoxaprop-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300597; FRL-5764-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5997. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Bifenthrin; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300600; FRL-5764-6] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5998. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300593; FRL-5760-8] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5999. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Dicloran; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300596; FRL-5762-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6000. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Hexythiazox; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300595; FRL-5762-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6001. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Loan Policies and Operations; Loan Sales Relief (RIN: 3052-AB78) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6002. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Loan Policies and Operations; Interest Rates and Charges (RIN: 3052-AB81) received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6003. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—1997-Crop Peanuts; National Poundage Quota; National Average Support Level for Quota and Additional Peanuts; and Minimum Commodity Credit Corporation Export Edible Sales Price for Additional Peanuts (RIN: 0560-AF01) received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6004. A letter from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Risk Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pea Crop Insurance Regulations; and Common Crop Insurance Regulations, Green Pea Crop Insurance Provisions [7 CFR Parts 416 and 457] received December 1, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6005. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act by the Department of the Air Force, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

6006. A letter from the Assistant Secretary (Force Management Policy), Department of Defense, transmitting the eighth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 1008(b); to the Committee on National Security.

6007. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, transmitting notification that the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is initiating a cost comparison study of the DoD Retired and Annuitant Payroll functions, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

6008. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, transmitting notification that the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is initiating a cost comparison study of the DoD Civilian Payroll functions, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

6009. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting notification that the Commander of Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, has conducted a cost comparison to reduce the cost of the Central Heat and Power Plant function, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

6010. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Navy, transmitting a copy of the Agency's determination that it is in the public interest to use other than competitive procedures for awarding a proposed contract, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(7); to the Committee on National Security.

6011. A letter from the Principal Deputy (Acquisition and Technology), Department

of Defense, transmitting the Secretary's Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the quarter ending September 30, 1997, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2432; to the Committee on National Security.

6012. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Allowability of Costs for Restructuring Bonuses [DFARS Case 97–D312] received November 21, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

6013. A letter from the Director, Washington Headquarters Services, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Civilian Health and Medical program of the Uniformed Services; TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program [DoD 6010.8–R] (RIN: 0720–AA40) received December 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

6014. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Determination of Fair and Reasonable Guideline Rates for the Carriage of Less-Than-Shipload Lots of Bulk and Packaged Preference Cargoes on U.S.-Flag Commercial Liner Vessels; Removal of Part (Maritime Administration) [Docket No. R–156] (RIN: 2133–AB16) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

6015. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Veterans Education: Increased Allowances for the Educational Assistance Test Program (RIN: 2900–AI94) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

6016. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting certification that the current Future Years Defense Program fully funds the support costs associated with the Apache Longbow radar program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2306b(i)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

6017. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the Department's semiannual report on audit and investigative activities for the 6-month period ending September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on National Security.

6018. A letter from the Deputy Congressional Liaison, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Truth in Lending [Regulation Z; Docket No. R–0960] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6019. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Risk-Based Capital Standards: Market Risk [Regulations H and Y; Docket No. R–0996] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6020. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Equal Credit Opportunity [Regulation B; Docket No. R–0955] received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6021. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Bank Enterprise Award Program (Community Development Financial Institutions Fund) (RIN: 1505–AA71) received December 1, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6022. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Bank Enterprise Award Program (Community Development Financial Institutions Fund) (RIN: 1505–AA71) received November 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6023. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Community Development Financial Institutions Program (Community Development Financial Institutions Fund) (RIN: 1505–AA71) received November 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6024. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Bank Enterprise Award Program (RIN: 1505–AA71) received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6025. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Single Family Loss Mitigation Procedures [FR–4032] received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6026. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Snow Load Map for Manufactured Homes; Technical Correction [Docket No. FR–4276–F–01] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6027. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indian HOME Program [Docket No. FR–3567–F–02] (RIN: 2577–AB35) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6028. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Termination of an Approved Mortgagee's Origination Approval Agreement [FR–4239] received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6029. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Russia, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6030. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to the People's Republic of China, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6031. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Indonesia, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6032. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Amendment to Part 363—Independent Audits and Reporting Requirements— received November 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6033. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the President's Report on the Modernization of the Authorities of the Defense Production Act, pursuant to Public Law 104—64, section 4; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6034. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Authority to Approve Federal Home Loan Bank Bylaws [No. 97–77] (RIN: 3069–AA70) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6035. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the Office's final rule—Assessment of Fees; National Banks; District of Columbia Banks [Docket No. 97–23] (RIN: 1557–AB41) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6036. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Liquidity [No. 97–116] (RIN: 1550–AA77) received November 20, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6037. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Technical Amendments [No. 97–126] received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6038. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Disclosures for Adjustable-rate Mortgage Loans, Adjustment Notices, and Interest-rate Caps [No. 97–130] (RIN: 1550–AB12) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6039. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Application Processing [No. 97–121] (RIN: 1550–AA83) received December 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6040. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Fiduciary Powers; Community Reinvestment Act [No. 97–129] (RIN: 1550–AB09) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6041. A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a report entitled "American Finance for the 21st Century," pursuant to Public Law 103—328, section 210; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6042. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 867, H.R. 1377, H.R. 1787, H.R. 2367, S. 813, H.R. 2813, H.J.R. 91 and H.J.R. 92, pursuant to Public Law 101—508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388—582); to the Committee on the Budget.

6043. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting

OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 1090, S. 714 and S. 923, pursuant to Public Law 101—508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388—582); to the Committee on the Budget.

6044. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 2464, S. 587, S. 589, H.R. 79, H.R. 672 and H.R. 708, pursuant to Public Law 101—508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388—582); to the Committee on the Budget.

6045. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 1119, pursuant to Public Law 101—508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388—582); to the Committee on the Budget.

6046. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of S. 1228, S. 1519, S. 156, S. 1139, and S. 1193, pursuant to Public Law 101—508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388—582); to the Committee on the Budget.

6047. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 2979, H.R. 1658, H.R. 2265, and H.R. 3034, pursuant to Public Law 101—508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388—582); to the Committee on the Budget.

6048. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education, transmitting notice of final funding priorities for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6049. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting Final Regulations——Standards of Conduct and Evaluations of Activities Carried out by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement: Designation of Exemplary and Promising Programs, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6050. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting notice of final eligibility and selection criteria: National Awards Program for Model Professional Development, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6051. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting Final Regulations——Federal Work-Study Programs, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6052. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting Final Regulations——Federal Family Education Loan Program and William D. FORD Federal Direct Loan Program, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6053. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting the Nineteenth Annual Report on the progress being made toward the provision of a free appropriate public education for all handicapped children, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1418(f)(1); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6054. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting Final Regulations——Protection of Human Subjects, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6055. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting Final Regulations——Student Assistance General Provisions——Standards of Financial Responsibility, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6056. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the seventeenth annual report on the implementation of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 by departments and agencies which administer programs of Federal financial assistance, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6106a(b); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6057. A letter from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting the Department's annual report to Congress on the FY 1996 program operations of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), the administration of the Black Lung Benefits Act (BLBA), the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA), and the Federal Employees' Compensation Act for the period October 1, 1995, through September 30, 1996, pursuant to 30 U.S.C. 936(b); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6058. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National Service, transmitting the Corporation's Program Report and Financial Reports for 1995, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9101 and 9106; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6059. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting a report on the final regulations for Federal Work-Study Programs, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6060. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting a report on the final regulations for Student Assistance General Provisions, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6061. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Family Education Loan Program and William D. FORD Federal Direct Loan Program (RIN: 1840-AC45) received December 15, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6062. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the report on the notice of final funding priorities for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (RIN: 1850-ZA01) received December 1, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6063. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting a report on the final regulations for Protection of Human Subjects (RIN: 1880-AA75) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6064. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Pension and Welfare Benefits, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to the Definition of Plan Assets; Participant Contributions (RIN: 1210-AA59) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6065. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Employment Standards, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Employment of Student-Learners, Employment of Apprentices, Employment of Learners, Employment of Messengers, and Employment of Student Workers (RIN: 1215-AB10) received December 9, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6066. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Pension and Welfare Benefits, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Interim Rules for Mental Health Parity (RIN: 0938-AI05) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6067. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Treatment of Shareholders of Certain Passive Foreign Investment Companies [TD 8701] (RIN: 1545-AC06) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6068. A letter from the Chairman, National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education, transmitting a report entitled "Straight Talk About College Costs and Prices," pursuant to Public Law 105—18; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6069. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting the Administration's "Major" final rule—Respiratory Protection [Docket No. H-049] (RIN: 1218-AA05) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6070. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, transmitting the Energy Information Administration's "Annual Energy Review 1996," pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 790f(a)(2); to the Committee on Commerce.

6071. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the fifth annual report to Congress on progress in achieving the performance goals referenced in the Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992 (PDUFA), for the Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379g nt.; to the Committee on Commerce.

6072. A letter from the Chairman, Commission on Dietary Supplement Labels, transmitting the final report of the Commission, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 343 nt.; to the Committee on Commerce.

6073. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule —Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program [Docket No. 970103002-7304-03] (RIN: 0660-ZA02) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6074. A letter from the Director, Office of Rulemaking Coordination, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Policy Statement for Electric Motors Covered Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act—received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6075. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the fourteenth annual report to Congress of

the Orphan Products Board (OPB), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 236(e); to the Committee on Commerce.

6076. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Air Bag On-Off Switches (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) [Docket No. NHTSA-97-3111] (RIN: 2127-AG61) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6077. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Illinois [IL162-1a; FRl-5926-6] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6078. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of Title V Operating Permits Program Revisions; State Implementation Plan Revision, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, California [CA-002-PP; FRL-5926-2] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6079. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes Tennessee: Redesignation of the Polk County and New JOHNSONville Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Areas to Attainment [TN 86-1-9802a; TN 127-1-9803a; FRL-5923-2] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6080. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Hydroprene Biochemical Pest Control Agent; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300475A; FRL-5746-5] (RIN: 2070-AC78) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6081. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Determination to Extend Deadline for Promulgation of Action on Section 126 Petitions [FRL-5925-4] received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6082. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Alabama: Final Authorization of Revisions to State's Hazardous Waste Management Program [FRL-5925-8] received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6083. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arizona—Maricopa County CO Nonattainment Area [AZ033-0007; FRL-5928-3] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6084. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision; Bay Area Air Quality Management District [CA 179-0061; FRL-5929-9] received December 9, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6085. A letter from the Director, State and Site Identification Center, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites [40 CFR Part 300] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6086. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Louisiana; Correction of the Designation for Lafourche Parish [LA-41-1-7355, FRL-5899-8] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6087. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Technical Amendments to Air Quality Implementation Plan for Connecticut; Correction [FRL-5931-8] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6088. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Ethylene Oxide Commercial Sterilization and Fumigation Operations [FRL-5933-6] (RIN: 2060-AC28) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6089. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Reclassification; California—Santa Barbara Nonattainment Area; Ozone [CA-002-BU; FRL-5932-6] received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6090. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval of Section 112(1) Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Perchloroethylene Air Emission Standards for Dry Cleaning Facilities; State of California; San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District [FRL-5932-1] received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6091. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans, Louisiana; Reasonable Available Control Technology for Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds [LA35-1-7305a; FRL-5928-2] received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6092. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Bay Area Air Quality Management District [CA 179-0057; FRL-5934-8] received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6093. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Illinois [IL158a; FRL-5900-3] received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6094. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan for Colorado; Carbon Monoxide Contingency Measures for Colorado Springs and Fort COLLINS [CO-44-1-6866(a); FRL-5630-1] received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6095. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District [CA179-0052a; FRL-5911-2] received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6096. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Revisions to the New York State Implementation Plan for Ozone [Region II Docket No. NY10-2-174; FRL-5934-7] received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6097. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles and New Motor Vehicle Engines: State Commitments to National Low Emission Vehicle Program [AMS-FRL-5938-8] (RIN: 2060-AF75) received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6098. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Polyalkylene Polyamine; Significant New Use Rule [OPPTS-50608E; FRL-57462] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received November 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6099. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans, and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Indiana [IN77-2; FRL-5933-3] received November 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6100. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania New Source Review and Emissions Registry Regulation [PA042-4065; FRL-5925-7] received November 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6101. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan for Colorado; Carbon Monoxide Contingency Measures for Colorado Springs and Fort Collins [CO-44-1-6866(a); FRL-5630-1] received December 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6102. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Colorado [CO47-1-6946 & CO-001-0020; FRL-5934-1] received December 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6103. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of PM10 Implementation Plan for Colorado; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Steamboat Springs [CO-001-0006a & CO-001-0021a; FRL-5934-2] received December 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6104. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Determination of Attainment of the One-Hour Ozone Standard for the Poughkeepsie, New York Ozone Nonattainment Area and Determination Regarding Applicability of Certain Reasonable Further Progress and Attainment Demonstration Requirements [Region 2 Docket No. NY 26-2-176a; FRL-5936-8] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6105. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Acid Rain Program: Revisions to Permits, Allowance System, Sulfur Dioxide Opt-Ins, Continuous Emission Monitoring, Excess Emissions, and Appeal Procedures [FRL-5936-3] (RIN: 2060-AF43) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6106. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Petition by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Exemption from Anti-Dumping and Detergent Additization Requirements for Conventional Gasoline [FRL-5931-3] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6107. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clarification of Standards for Hazardous Waste Land Disposal Restriction Treatment Variances [FRL-5932-5] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6108. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities and Hazardous Waste Generators; Organic Air Emission Standards for Tanks, Surface Impoundments, and Containers [IL-64-2-5807; FRL-5931-7] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6109. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Georgia: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [FRL-5924-5] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6110. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; North Dakota; Control of Landfill Gas Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [ND-001-0003a; FRL-5933-8] received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6111. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; 1990 Base Year Emission Inventories for Montana [MT-001-0002a, MT-001-0003a; FRL-5934-5] received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6112. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan; Illinois [IL117-3; FRL-5935-2] received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6113. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Thiodicarb; Pesticide Tolerance; Correction [OPP-300541A; FRL-5761-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6114. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Glutamic Acid; Pesticide Tolerance Exemption [OPP-300598; FRL-5764-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6115. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Gamma Aminobutyric Acid; Pesticide Tolerance Exemption [OPP-300599; FRL-5764-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6116. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Minor Amendments to Inspection Maintenance Program Evaluation Requirements; Amendment to the Final Rule [FRL-5945-8] (RIN: 2060-AH61) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6117. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Identification of Ozone Areas Attaining the 1-Hour Standard and to Which the 1-Hour Standard is No Longer Applicable [FRL-5945-7] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6118. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Maintenance Plan Revision; Ohio [OH111-1a; FRL-5947-8] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6119. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans: Revisions to Several Chapters of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management Administration Code for the Air Pollution Control Program [AL-045-1-9804a; FRL-5946-5] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6120. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Enhanced Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program [PA 091-4050a; FRL-5918-2] received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6121. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Land Disposal Restrictions Phase III—Decharacterized Wastewaters, Carbamate Wastes, and Spent Potliners [FRL-5528-1] (RIN: 2050-AD38) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6122. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—List of Regulated Substances and Thresholds for Accidental Release Prevention; Amendments [FRL-5940-4] (RIN: 2050-AE35) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6123. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Modifications to Standards and Requirements for Reformulated and Conventional Gasoline [FRL-5942-6] (RIN: 2060-AG76) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6124. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans For Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Illinois [IL159-1a; FRL-5938-4] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6125. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Louisiana: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [FRL-5937-2] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6126. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Louisiana: Final Authorization and Incorporation By Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program [FRL-5935-7] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6127. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Determination to Extend Deadline for Promulgation of Action on Section 126 Petitions [FRL-5937-7] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6128. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and

Promulgation of State Implementation Plans: Washington; Correcting Amendments [WA 29-1-6724, WA 57-7132; FRL-5934-9] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6129. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Control of Air Pollution: Emission Standards for New Nonroad Compression-Ignition Engines at or above 37 Kilowatts; Preemption of State Regulation for Nonroad Engine and Vehicle Standards; Amendments to Rules [AMS-FRL-5939-5] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6130. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Protection of Stratospheric Ozone [FRL-5939-4] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6131. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances [OPPTS-50628; FRL-5720-3] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received January 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6132. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances [OPPts-50628; FRL-5720-3] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received January 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6133. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish Competitive Service Safeguards for Local Exchange Carrier Provision of Commercial Mobile Radio Services; Implementation of Section 601(d) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 [WT Docket No. 96-162] received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6134. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Rulemaking to Amend Parts 1, 2, 21, and 25 of the Commission's Rules to Redesignate the 27.5-29.5 GHz Frequency Band, to Reallocate the 29.5-30.0 GHz Frequency Band, to Establish Rules and Policies for Local Multipoint Distribution Service and for Fixed Satellite Services [CC Docket No. 92-297] received November 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6135. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Amendment of the Commission's Regulatory Policies to Allow Non-U.S. Licensed Space Stations to Provide Domestic and International Satellite Service in the United States [IB Docket No. 96-111] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6136. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Rules and Policies on Foreign Participation in the U.S. Telecommunications Market; Market Entry and Regulation of Foreign-Affiliated Entities [IB Docket No. 97-142; IB Docket No. 95-22] received December 1, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6137. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Access Charge Reform; Transport Rate Structure and Pricing [CC Docket No. 96-262; CC Docket No. 91-213] received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6138. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Telecommunications Services Inside Wiring; Customer Premises Equipment; Implementation of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992: Cable Home Wiring [CS Docket No. 95-184; MM Docket No. 92-260] received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6139. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Blue Lake, California) [MM Docket No. 97-124, RM-8851] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6140. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Saint Paul, Arkansas) [MM Docket No. 97-34, RM-8938] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6141. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Eckley, Colorado) [MM Docket No. 97-109, RM-9018] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6142. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Dassel and Hutchinson, Minnesota) [MM Docket No. 97-114, RM-9059] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6143. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Anamosa and Asbury, Iowa) [MM Docket No. 96-215, RM-8898, RM-8924] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6144. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Lockport and Amherst, New York) [MM Docket No. 96-240; RM-8946, RM-9019] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6145. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Calico Rock and Leslie, Arkansas) [MM Docket No. 97-32; RM-8931, RM-9065] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6146. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (HUTCHINSON, Kansas) [MM Docket No. 97-162, RM-9112] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6147. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Franklin and White Castle, Louisiana) [MM Docket No. 96-170; RM-8844, RM-9057] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6148. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Mesquite, Nevada) [MM Docket No. 97-132, RM-9081] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6149. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Waynesboro and Collinwood, Tennessee) [MM Docket No. 97-60, RM-8982] received November 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6150. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Access Charge Reform, Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers, Transport Rate Structure and Pricing, End User Common Line Charge [CC Docket No. 96-45; CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72] received January 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6151. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Amendment of Rules Governing Procedures To Be Followed When Formal Complaints Are Filed Against Common Carriers [CC Docket No. 96-238] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6152. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Geneseo, Illinois and DeWitt, Iowa) [MM Docket No. 96-

195, RM-8867] received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6153. A letter from the AMD—Performace Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Kaunakakai, Hawaii) [MM Docket No. 97-193, RM-9125] received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6154. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Chugwater, Wyoming) [MM Docket No. 96-243, RM-8925] received December 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6155. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Haiku, Hawaii) [MM Docket No. 97-195, RM-9126] received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6156. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Glen Rose and Stamford, Texas) [MM Docket No. 97-145, RM-9091] received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6157. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Windsor, New York) [MM Docket No. 96-218, RM-8912] received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6158. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules—Competitive Bidding Procedures; Allocation of Spectrum Below 5 GHz Transferred from Federal Government Use [WT Docket No. 97-82; ET Docket No. 94-32] received January 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6159. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and RECORDS Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems [CC Docket No. 94-102, RM-8143] received January 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6160. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities; Recovery of Stranded Costs by Public Utilities and Transmitting Utilities [Docket Nos. RM95-8-003 and RM94-7-004; Order No. 888-B] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6161. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Open Access Same-Time Information System and Standards of Conduct [Docket No. RM95-9-002; Order No. 889-B] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6162. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Enforcement Policy Statement on U.S. Origin Claims—received December 1, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6163. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Deceptive Use of "Leakproof," "Guaranteed Leakproof,"Etc., as Descriptive of Dry Cell Batteries [16 CFR Part 403] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6164. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Disclosures Regarding Energy Consumption and Water Use of Certain Home Appliances and Other Products Required Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act [16 CFR Part 305] received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6165. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Labeling: Health Claims; Dietary Sugar Alcoholics and Dental Caries [Docket No. 97P-0206] received November 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6166. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Medical Devices; Classification/Reclassification; Restricted Devices; Analysis Specific Reagents [Docket No. 96N-0082] (RIN: 0910-ZA03) received November 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6167. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Labeling; Serving Sizes; Reference Amount for Salt, Salt Substitutes, Seasoning Salts [Docket No. 93P-0448] received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6168. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Quality Mammography Standards; Correction [Docket No. 95N-0192] (RIN: 0910-AA24) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6169. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food [Docket Nos. 86F-0507 and 86F-0509] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6170. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food [Docket No. 94F-0289] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6171. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Exemption from Preemption of State and Local Cigarette and Smokeless Tobacco Requirements; Applications for Exemption Submitted by Various State Governments [Docket No. 96N-0249] (RIN: 0910-AB19) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6172. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Carcinogenicity Testing of Compounds Used in Food-Producing Animals [Docket No. 95N-0417] received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6173. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Labeling; Statement of Identity, Nutrition Labeling and Ingredient Labeling of Dietary Supplements; Compliance Policy Guide, Revocation; Correction [Docket Nos. 95N-0245 and 94P-0110] (RIN: 0910-AA59) received December 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6174. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Revocation of Regulation on Positron Emission Tomography Drug Products [Docket No. 94N-0421] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6175. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Medical Devices; Reclassification of Tumor-Associated Antigen Immunological Test Systems [Docket No. 95P-0136] received December 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6176. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—New Animal Drugs for Use in Animal Feeds; Decoquinate and Bacitracin Zinc With Roxarsone [21 CFR Part 558] received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6177. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Delegations of Authority and Organization; Center for Devices and Radiological Health [21 CFR Part 5] received December 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6178. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Medical Devices; Reports of Corrections and Removals; Stay of Effective Date of Information Collection Requirements [Docket No. 91N-0396] received December 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6179. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Criticality Accident Requirements (RIN: 3150-AF87) received December 8,

1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6180. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Changes to Nuclear Power Plant Security Requirements (RIN: 3150–AF53) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6181. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Exempt Distribution of a Radioactive Drug Containing One Microcurie of Carbon-14 Urea (RIN: 3150–AF70) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6182. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Management of Radioactive Material Safety Programs at Medical Facilities [NUREG–1516] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6183. A letter from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting the 1996 annual report on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Progress, pursuant to Public Law 99—240, section 7(b); to the Committee on Commerce.

6184. A letter from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting the Department's Thirty-Eighth Quarterly Report on the Status of Exxon and Stripper Well Oil Overcharge funds as of March 31, 1997, pursuant to Public Law 100—202; to the Committee on Commerce.

6185. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the ninth annual report of the Department's Council on Alzheimer's Disease, pursuant to Public Law 99—660, section 912(2) (100 Stat. 3805); to the Committee on Commerce.

6186. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Quality Mammography Standards (Food and Drug Administration) [Docket No. 95N–0192] (RIN: 0910–AA24) received November 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6187. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Application of HIPAA Group Market Rules to Individuals Who Were Denied Coverage Due to a Health Status-Related Factor [45 CFR Subtitle A, Parts 144 and 146] received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6188. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Technical Revisions to the Rules and Forms Regulating Money Market Funds [Release Nos. 33–7479; IC–22921; S7–29–96] (RIN: 3235–AE17) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6189. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Technical Revisions to the Rules and Forms Regulating Money Market Funds [Release Nos. 33–7479; IC–22921; S7–29–96] (RIN: 3235–AE17) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6190. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 105—175); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

6191. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting the Department of the Navy's proposed lease of defense articles to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (Transmittal No. 04–98), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6192. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting the Department of the Navy's proposed lease of defense articles to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (Transmittal No. 02–98), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6193. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting the Department of the Navy's proposed lease of defense articles to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (Transmittal No. 03–98), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6194. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 03–98 for a cooperative agreement with Sweden to develop an Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

6195. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 01–98 regarding an amendment to the agreement between the U.S./Israel for the Arrow Deployability Program, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

6196. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Israel for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 98–23), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

6197. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 04–98 constituting a request for final approval for the memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and the United Kingdom concerning cooperation in the development, production and follow-on support of the Armored Scout Reconnaissance Vehicle System, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

6198. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 05–98 which constitutes a Request for Final Approval for an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Germany concerning cooperative production of the MK–31 Guided Missile Weapon System which is known as the Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) Block 0, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

6199. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting the listing of all outstanding Letters of Offer to sell any major defense equipment for $1 million or more; the listing of all Letters of Offer that were accepted, as of September 30, 1997, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6200. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially to Saudi Arabia (Transmittal No. DTC–3–98), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

6201. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6202. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certifications and waivers and their justification under section 565(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 of the prohibition against contracting with firms that comply with the Arab League Boycott of the state of Israel contracting with firms that discriminate in the award of subcontracts on the basis of religion, pursuant to Public Law 103—236, section 565(b) (108 Stat. 845); to the Committee on International Relations.

6203. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6204. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6205. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6206. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6207. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that three rewards have been paid, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2708(h); to the Committee on International Relations.

6208. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that a reward has been paid, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2708(h); to the Committee on International Relations.

6209. A letter from the General Counsel, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, transmitting copies of the English and Russian texts of the three joint statements negotiated by the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission and concluded during JCIC-XVI; to the Committee on International Relations.

6210. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Secretary's determination that eight countries are not cooperating fully with U.S. antiterrorism efforts: Afghanistan, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria, pursuant to section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

6211. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the Government of Egypt has requested that the United States Government permit the use of Foreign Military Financing for the sale and limited coproduction of 50 M88A2 tank recovery vehicle kits, pursuant to section 42(b) of the

Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

6212. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations [Public Notice 2602] received December 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

6213. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the President's determination and certification for fiscal year 1998 concerning Argentina's and Brazil's Ineligibility, pursuant to section 102(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

6214. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the "Report on Withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces and Military Equipment"; to the Committee on International Relations.

6215. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on determination and certification on a chemical weapons proliferation sanctions matter; to the Committee on International Relations.

6216. A letter from the Executive Director, Japan-United States Friendship Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for fiscal year 1997, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2904(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

6217. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on Negative Security Assurances; to the Committee on International Relations.

6218. A letter from the Director, Office of Administration, transmitting the White House personnel report for the fiscal year 1997, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 113; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6219. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6220. A letter from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of the Inspector General and the Secretary's semiannual report on final action taken on Inspector General audits for the period from April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6221. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting the semiannual report of the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6222. A letter from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997 and the Semiannual Report on Inspector General Audit Reports for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6223. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, and Management Report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6224. A letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6225. A letter from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Department of Labor's Inspector General and Management report covering the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6226. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General for the period ended September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6227. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-189, "Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and Teachers Retirement Benefit Replacement Plan Temporary Act of 1997" received November 21, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6228. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-190, "Fiscal Year 1998 Revised Budget Support Temporary Act of 1997" received December 11, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6229. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-191, "Fiscal Year 1998 Revised Budget Support Act of 1997" received December 11, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6230. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-204, "Comprehensive Merit Personnel Employee Viatical Settlement Amendment Act of 1997" received December 18, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6231. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-199, "Check Identification Fraud Prevention Temporary Act of 1997" received December 18, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6232. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-211, "District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Federal Conformity Temporary Act of 1997" received December 18, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6233. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-210, "Department of Corrections Criminal Background Investigation Authorization Temporary Act of 1997" received December 18, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6234. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-209, "Chief Procurement Officer Qualification Temporary Amendment Act of 1997" received December 18, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6235. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-205, "Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act Health and Life Insurance Clarification Amendment Act of 1997" received December 18, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6236. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-200, "Collateral Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 1997" received December 18, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6237. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-198, "Housing Authority Police Amendment Act of 1997" received December 18, 1997, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6238. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-223, "Child Development Facilities Regulation Temporary Act of 1997" received January 9, 1998, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6239. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-224, "Day Care Policy Temporary Amendment Act of 1997" received January 9, 1998, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6240. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-219, "TANF and TANF-Related Medicaid Managed Care Program Temporary Amendment Act of 1997" received January 9, 1998, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6241. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 12-194, "Real Property Tax Rates for Tax Year 1998 Temporary Amendment Act of 1997" received January 9, 1998, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6242. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of a report entitled "Evaluation of the Accounts and Operation of the Office of Tourism and Promotions for Fiscal Years 1996 and 1997," pursuant to D.C. Code section 47—117(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6243. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a list of all reports issued or released in October 1997, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(h); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6244. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a list of all reports issued or released in November 1997, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(h); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6245. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting the semiannual report of the Agency's Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997, and the semiannual report on audit management

and resolution, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6246. A letter from the Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission, transmitting the 1997 annual consolidated report in compliance with the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6247. A letter from the Federal Co-Chairman, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6248. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the reporting period January-September 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6249. A letter from the President, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6250. A letter from the President, Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, transmitting the 1997 annual report in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to Public Law 100—504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6251. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6252. A letter from the Director, Bureau of the Census, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Census County Division Program for Census 2000 [Docket No. 970501104-7271-02] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6253. A letter from the Director, Bureau of the Census, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Block Group Program for Census 2000 [Docket No. 970408082-7273-02] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6254. A letter from the Chair, Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6255. A letter from the Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6256. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Additions to and Deletions from the Procurement List [97-020] received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6257. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Additions to and Deletions from the Procurement List [98-001] received January 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6258. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6259. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6260. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National Service, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6261. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting notification of its intent with regard to the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority's Resolution and Recommendation Concerning Managed Medical Health Care for District of Columbia Medicaid Recipients, pursuant to Public Law 104-8, section 207; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6262. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary (Civil Works), Department of the Army, transmitting the strategic plan for Arlington National Cemetary and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetary, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6263. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Integration, Department of Defense, transmitting the fiscal year 1996 report on the actuarial status of the Military Retirement System, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9503(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6264. A letter from the Director, Administration and Management, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Freedom of Information Act Program [DoD 5400.7] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6265. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6266. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997, and the Management Report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6267. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6268. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6269. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General covering the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, and the semiannual Management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6270. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6271. A letter from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6272. A letter from the Chairman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6273. A letter from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting a copy of the EEOC's "Annual Report on the Employment of Minorities, Women, and People with Disabilities in the Federal Government, FY 1996," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000e-4(e); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6274. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6275. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act for 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6276. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6277. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's revised strategic plan for fiscal years 1998-2003 and its 1999 performance plan, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6278. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6279. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6280. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the reports in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar years 1995 and 1996, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6281. A letter from the Chair, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6282. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6283. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6284. A letter from the Director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6285. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6286. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6287. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a monthly listing of new investigations, audits, and evaluations; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6288. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a monthly listing of new investigations, audits, and evaluations; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6289. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a monthly listing of new investigations, audits, and evaluations; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6290. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a monthly listing of new investigations, audits, and evaluations; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6291. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting the report on results of the audit of the Custodial Financial Statements of the Internal Revenue Service for fiscal year 1996, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6292. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997, and the management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6293. A letter from the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997, and the management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6294. A letter from the Chairman, Legal Services Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Strategic Plan for FY 1998–FY 2003, pursuant to Public Law 103–62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6295. A letter from the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Legal Services Corporation, transmitting the report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act for 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6296. A letter from the FOIA Administrator, Office of the General Counsel, Legal Services Corporation, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6297. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 1997, and the semiannual management report on the status of audit followup for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6298. A letter from the Director, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and RECORDS Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Prices and Availability of Federal Register Publications; Acceptance of Digital Signatures—received December 1, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6299. A letter from the Director, Policy and Communications Staff, National Archives and RECORDS Administration, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6300. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6301. A letter from the Deputy Financial Officer, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6302. A letter from the Senior Deputy Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6303. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6304. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6305. A letter from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6306. A letter from the Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6307. A letter from the Chairman, National Science Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6308. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6309. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the consolidated report in compliance with the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6310. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6311. A letter from the Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the 1997 annual report in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to Public Law 100—504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6312. A letter from the Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the 1997 annual report in compliance with the Inspector

General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to Public Law 100—504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6313. A letter from the Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6314. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report entitled "Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 1998," pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6315. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the period January 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6316. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Pay Under the General Schedule; Locality Pay Areas for 1998 (RIN: 3206–AH65) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6317. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Reduction in Force and Performance Management (RIN: 3206–AH32) received November 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6318. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period of April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997, and the Management Response for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6319. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting notification of an approved proposal for a personnel management demonstration project for the Department of Commerce, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 4703(b)(4)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6320. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Prevailing Rate Systems; Removal of Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, and Monmouth County, NJ, from the New York, NY, Appropriated Fund Survey Area (RIN: 3206–AI06) received January 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6321. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Prevailing Rate Systems; Removal of Umatilla County, OR, from Spokane, WA, Nonappropriated Fund Wage Area (RIN: 3206–AI10) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6322. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Procedures for Settling Claims (RIN: 3206–AH89) received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6323. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6324. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting notification of an approved proposal for a personnel management demonstration project for the Naval Surface Warfare Center and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 4703(b)(4)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6325. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Cost-of-Living Allowance (Nonforeign Areas); Miscellaneous Changes (RIN: 3206–AH51) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6326. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Student Educational Employment Program (RIN: 3206–AH82) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6327. A letter from the Chairman, Panama Canal Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6328. A letter from the Administrator, Panama Canal Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6329. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6330. A letter from the Chairman, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6331. A letter from the Chairman, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6332. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6333. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Strategic Plan for 1997–2002, pursuant to Public Law 103–62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6334. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6335. A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 1997, and the Secretary's semiannual report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6336. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the 1997 annual report in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to Public Law 100–504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6337. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6338. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting the Seventeenth Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-Up, covering the period from April 1, 1997 to September 30, 1997, pursuant to Public Law 100–504, section 106(b) (102 Stat. 2526); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6339. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the Secretary's Management Report on Management Decisions and Final Actions on Office of Inspector General Audit Recommendations for the period ending September 30, 1997, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6340. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6341. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6342. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6343. A letter from the Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6344. A letter from the Executive Director, State Justice Institute, transmitting the 1997 annual consolidated report in compliance with the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6345. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6346. A letter from the Chairperson, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission,

transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6347. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6348. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the 1997 annual report in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to Public Law 100-504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6349. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6350. A letter from the Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6351. A letter from the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, transmitting two opinions of the Court; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6352. A letter from the Public Printer, United States Government Printing Office, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6353. A letter from the Director, United States Information Agency, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997, also the Management Report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6354. A letter from the Director, United States Information Agency, transmitting the FY 1997 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6355. A letter from the President, United States Institute of Peace, transmitting the 1995 and 1996 annual consolidated report in compliance with the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6356. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6357. A letter from the Chairman, United States Postal Service, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

6358. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Royalty Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting notification of proposed refunds of excess royalty payments in OCS areas, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1339(b); to the Committee on Resources.

6359. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Reclamation Projects, Grant of Lands in Reclamation Townsites for School Purposes (RIN: 1004-AC91) received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6360. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Adjustments to 1998 Operating Criteria and Procedures for the Newlands Irrigation Project in Nevada (RIN: 1006-AA37) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6361. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Belt Use Within the NPS System (RIN: 1024-AC63) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6362. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Migratory Bird Hunting: Revised Test Protocol for Nontoxic Approval Procedures for Shot and Shot Coatings (RIN: 1018-AB80) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6363. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Multiple Use, Mining; Mining Claims Under the General Mining Laws [WO-340-1220-00-24 1A] (RIN: 1004-AD05) received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6364. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Geological and Geophysical Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf (RIN: 1010-AC10) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6365. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Surety Bonds for Outer Continental Shelf Leases (RIN: 1010-AB92) received May 9, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A)(O); to the Committee on Resources.

6366. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for Two Tidal Marsh Plants from the San Francisco Bay Area of California (RIN: 1018-AD14) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6367. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Callippe Silverspot Butterfly and the Behren's Silverspot Butterfly and Threatened Status for the Alameda Whipsnake (RIN: 1018-AC32) received December 9, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6368. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for Brother's Island Tuatara (RIN: 1018-AD06) received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6369. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Gray Wolf in Arizona and New Mexico (RIN: 1018-AD07) received January 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6370. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Improved Retention/Improved Utilization [Docket No. 970806191-7279-02; I.D. 072297A] (RIN: 0648-AJ71) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6371. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Quotas, Bag Limits, Prohibitions, and Requirements [Docket No. 961211348-7065-03; I.D. 0923968] (RIN: 0648-AH77) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6372. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No. 961204340-7087-02; I.D. 112597A] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6373. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Allocations of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area [Docket No. 960815223-6315-02; I.D. 081296A] (RIN: 0648-AI70) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6374. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Electronic Reporting [Docket No. 950815208-6299-02; I.D. 080295B] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6375. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 961126334-7025-02; I.D. 112597C] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6376. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Adjustments and Closures from the U.S.-Canadian Border to the U.S.-Mexican Border [Docket No. 970429101-7101-01; I.D. 111097A] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6377. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Effort Controls [Docket No. 970626157-7176-01; I.D. 041697C] (RIN: 0648-AJ65) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6378. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Regulatory Adjustments [Docket No. 960816226-7115-02; I.D. 050797B] (RIN: 0648-AJ04) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6379. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Regulatory Adjustments [Docket No. 960416112-7026-05; I.D. 020597C] (RIN: 0648-AJ04) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6380. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Regulatory Adjustments [Docket No. 960816226-7172-05; I.D. 061897C] (RIN: 0648-AJ04) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6381. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fishery; Minimum Clam Size for 1998 [Docket No. 900124-0127; I.D. 112897E] received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6382. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trip Limit Changes [Docket No. 961227373-6373-01; I.D. 111297A] received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6383. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Interim 1998 Harvest Specifications [Docket No. 971208295-7295-01; I.D. 111897A] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6384. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Interim 1998 Harvest Specifications [Docket No. 971208296-7296-01; I.D. 111997A] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6385. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Scallop Fishery Off Alaska, Scallops in the Northeast District of Registration Area K [Docket No. 970613138-7138-01; I.D. 120297A] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6386. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Improved Retention/Improved Utilization [Docket No. 970611133-7263-02; I.D. 052997B] (RIN: 0648-AJ36) received December 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6387. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Amendment 10 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan [Docket No. 970908229-7277-02; I.D. 082797A] (RIN: 0648-AJ55) received December 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6388. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bycatch Rate Standards for the First Half of 1998 [Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 112497E] received December 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6389. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Correction [Docket No. 961119321-7071-02; I.D. 110796G] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6390. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Individual Fishing Quota Program; Sweep-up Adjustments [Docket No. 960918264-6350-02; I.D. 091296A] (RIN: 0648-AI61) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6391. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Final 1998 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs [Docket No. 980107005-8055-01; I.D. 102997E] received January 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6392. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic MACKerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; 1998 Specifications [Docket No. 971107264-8001-02; I.D. 102297A] (RIN: 0648-AK47) received January 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6393. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Apportionment of Reserve [Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 120897B] received December 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6394. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Individual Fishing Quota Program; Standard Allowances for Ice and Slime; Correction [Docket No. 870520118-7251-02; I.D. 050197A] (RIN: 0648-AJ00) received December 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6395. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No. 961204340-7087-02; I.D. 121297A] received December 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6396. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries [Docket No. 971015246-7293-02; I.D. 100897D] (RIN: 0648-AK44) received December 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6397. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Closure [Docket No. 961204340-7087-02; I.D. 010698A] received January 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6398. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Magnuson-STEVENS Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat [Docket No. 961030300-7238-04; I.D. 120996A] (RIN: 0648-AJ30) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6399. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Scallop Fishery Off Alaska; Change in Season Dates [Docket No. 971110265-7306-02; I.D. 101797A] (RIN: 0648-AJ98) received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6400. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Extension of the Interim Groundfish Observer Program through 1998 [Docket No. 970829216-7305-02; I.D. 073097B] (RIN: 0648-

AK15) received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6401. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Closures of Specified Groundfish Fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 971208296-7296-01; I.D. 121997A] received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6402. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [I.D. 121597C] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6403. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Prohibited Species Catch Limit for *Chionoecetes opilio* [Docket No. 970801188-7288-02; I.D. 070797C] (RIN: 0648-AJ45) received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6404. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Magnuson Act Provisions; Foreign Fishing; Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Annual Specifications and Management Measures [Docket No. 971229312-7312-01; I.D. 121697C] received January 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6405. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Snapper Minimum Size Limit [Docket No. 971205289-7313-02; I.D. 120497C] (RIN: 0648-AK28) received January 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6406. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Closures of Specified Groundfish Fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 961126334-7052-02; I.D. 122297A] received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6407. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Allocation of Atka MACKerel to Vessels Using Jig Gear [Docket No. 970829216-7305-02; I.D. 080597F] (RIN: 0648-AK14) received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6408. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Virginia [Docket No. 961210346-7035-02; I.D. 122297F] received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6409. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's "Major" final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 15; OMB Control Numbers; Removal of Expiration Date [Docket No. 971009242-7308-02; I.D. 091997B] (RIN: 0648-AJ14) received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6410. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries: Summer Flounder Commercial Quota Transfer from New Jersey to Connecticut [I.D. 122997B] received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6411. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Financial Assistance for Research and Development Projects in the Gulf of Mexico and Off the U.S. South Atlantic Coastal States; Marine Fisheries Initiative [Docket No. 97-1114270-7270-01; I.D. 111397A] (RIN: 0648-ZA35) received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6412. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, transmitting the Office's final rule—Alabama Regulatory Program [SPATS No. AL-067-FOR] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6413. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, transmitting the Office's final rule—Mississippi Regulatory Program [SPATS No. MS-012-FOR] received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6414. A letter from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting the report on the contribution of bycatch to charitable organizations, pursuant to Public Law 104—297, section 208; to the Committee on Resources.

6415. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the annual listing of all grants awarded pursuant to the DNA Identification Act of 1994, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3796kk—5; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6416. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act covering the six months ended December 31, 1996, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6417. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—HUD's Regulation on Self-Testing Regarding Residential Real Estate-Related Lending Transactions and Compliance with the Fair Housing Act [FR-4160] received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6418. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Implementation of the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996; Possession of List I Chemicals, Definitions, RECORD Retention, and Temporary Exemption from Chemical Registration for Distributors of Combination Ephedrine Products [DEA No. 154F] (RIN: 1117-AA42) received November 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6419. A letter from the Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Correspondence: Pretrial Inmates [BOP-1054-F] (RIN: 1120-AA52) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6420. A letter from the Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Correspondence: Restricted Special Mail Procedures [BOP-1048-F] (RIN: 1120-AA48) received December 9, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6421. A letter from the Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Adjustment of Status; Certain Nationals of the People's Republic of China [INS No. 1607-93] (RIN: 1115-AD33) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6422. A letter from the Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Administrative Deportation Procedures for Aliens Convicted of Aggravated Felonies Who Are Not Lawful Permanent Residents [INS No. 1827-96] (RIN: 1115-AE69) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6423. A letter from the Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Periods of Lawful Temporary Resident Status and Lawful Permanent Resident Status to Establish Seven Years of Lawful Domicile [INS No. 1748-96] (RIN: 1115-AE27) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6424. A letter from the Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Prima Facie Review of Form I-360 When Filed by Self-Petitioning Battered Spouse/Child [INS No. 1845-97] (RIN: 1115-AE77) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6425. A letter from the Director, Office for Victims of Crime, transmitting a report on the accomplishments of the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime during Fiscal Years 1995 and 1996, pursuant to section 1407(g) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6426. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, transmitting the Office's final rule—Implementation of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (RIN: 1029-AB90) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6427. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment [96-102] (RIN: 1550-AB01) received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6428. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Anticounterfeiting Consumer Protection Act: Disposition of Merchandise Bearing Counterfeit American Trademarks; Civil Penalties [T.D. 97-90] (RIN: 1515-AC10) received November 14, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6429. A letter from the Clerk, United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitting the court's report for the year ended September 30, 1997, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 791(c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6430. A letter from the the Acting Assistant Secretary (Civil Works), the Department of the Army, transmitting a report on the authorization of an environmental restoration project for the Lower Savannah River, Georgia and South Carolina, pursuant to Public Law 104—303, section 101(a)(11); (H. Doc. No. 105—173); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6431. A letter from the the Acting Assistant Secretary (Civil Works), the Department of the Army, transmitting a report on the authorization of a deep draft navigation project for Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, pursuant to Public Law 104—303, section 101(a)(27); (H. Doc. No. 105—174); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6432. A letter from the Executive Director, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule —Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; State and Local Government Facilities [Docket No. 92-2] (RIN: 3014-AA12) received January 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6433. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, transmitting the Transportation Statistics Annual Report 1997, pursuant to Public Law 102—240, section 6006 (105 Stat. 2174); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6434. A letter from the Commandant, Coast Guard, transmitting the Addendum to the Report to Congress on the International Private-Sector Tug-of-Opportunity System for the waters of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, pursuant to Public Law 104—58, section 401(a); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6435. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace BAe Model ATP Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-189-AD; Amdt. 39-10220; AD 97-24-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6436. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-44 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-37-AD; Amdt. 39-10236; AD 97-25-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6437. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of VOR Federal Airway; CA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AWP-17] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6438. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B16 Series Airplanes Modified in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate SA6003NM (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-286-AD; Amdt. 39-10235; AD 97-25-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6439. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Allison Engine Company Model 250-C40B Turboshaft Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ANE-31-AD; Amdt. 39-10233; AD 97-25-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6440. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT9D Series Turbofan Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ANE-04; Amdt. 39-10234; AD 97-25-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6441. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Model R22 Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-04-AD; Amdt. 39-10228; AD 97-25-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6442. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Pasquotank River, Elizabeth City, North Carolina (Coast Guard) [CGD05-97-009] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received December 11, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6443. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone: Los Angeles Harbor-San Pedro Bay, CA (Coast Guard) [COTP Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA; 97-007] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6444. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29055; Amdt. No. 1834] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6445. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29054; Amdt. No. 1833] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6446. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29053; Amdt. No. 1832] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6447. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fairchild Model F-27 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-35-AD; Amdt. 39-10204; AD 97-23-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6448. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fairchild Model FH-227 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-34-AD; Amdt. 39-10203; AD 97-23-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6449. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Avions Pierre Robin Model R3000 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-89-AD; Amdt. 39-10196; AD 97-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6450. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320 and A321 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-167-AD; Amdt. 39-10201; AD 97-23-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6451. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 0100 and 0070 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-165-AD; Amdt. 39-10200; AD 97-23-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6452. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-115-AD; Amdt. 39-10198; AD 97-23-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6453. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-219-AD; Amdt. 39-10199; AD 97-23-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6454. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace, Jefferson City, MO (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ACE-17] November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6455. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace, Eagle Grove, IA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ACE-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November

17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6456. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mandatory Participation in Qualified One-Call Systems by Pipeline Operators (Research and Special Programs Administration) [Docket No. PS-101A, Amdt. 192-82, 195-60] (RIN: 2137-AC57) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6457. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pipeline Safety: Regulations Implementing Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of the Interior (Research and Special Programs Administration) [Docket No. RSPA 97-2096; Amdt. Nos. 191-12; 192-81; 195-59] (RIN: 2137-AC99) received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6458. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Guntersville, AL (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6459. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation of Class E Airspace; Marietta Dobbins ARB (NAS Atlanta), GA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-14] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6460. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777-200 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-55-AD; Amdt. 39-10205; AD 97-23-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6461. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems MD900 Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-17-AD; Amdt. 39-10206; AD 97-12-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6462. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Allison Engine Company Model 250-C47B Turboshaft Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ANE-40-AD; Amdt. 39-10162; AD 97-21-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6463. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-284-AD; Amdt. 39-10208; AD 97-24-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6464. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-1A11, -2A12, and -2B16 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-285-AD; Amdt. 39-10209; AD 97-24-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6465. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Truck Size and Weight; Office of Management and Budget Control Number and Expiration Date (Federal Highway Administration) (RIN: 2125-AE20) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6466. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France (Eurocopter) Model SE 3130, SE 313B, SA 3180, SA 318B, and SA 318C Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-22-AD; Amdt. 39-10211; AD 97-24-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6467. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Falcon 2000 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-198-AD; Amdt. 39-10210; AD 97-24-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6468. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; New Mexico, NM (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ASW-28] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6469. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class D and E Airspace: McKinney, TX (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASW-22] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6470. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Jetstream Aircraft Limited Jetstream Models 3101 and 3201 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 92-CE-46-AD; Amdt. 39-10214; AD 97-24-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6471. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Aerospace Technologies of Australia Pty Ltd. (formerly Government Aircraft Factory) Models N22B, N22S, and N24A Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-34-AD; Amdt. 39-10212; AD 97-24-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6472. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Burkhart Grob, Luft-und Raumfahrt, GmbH. Model G102 Astir CS Sailplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-CE-95-AD; Amdt. 39-10215; AD 97-24-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6473. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Burkhart Grob, Luft-und Raumfahrt, Model G 103 C Twin III SL Sailplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-CE-37-AD; Amdt. 39-10216; AD 97-24-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6474. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Burkhardt Grob Luft-und Raumfahrt, GmbH. Model G 103 Twin Astir Sailplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-CE-96-AD; Amdt. 39-10217; AD 97-24-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6475. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Primary Category Seaplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 27641; Amdt. No. 21-75] (RIN: 2120-AG39) received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6476. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29065; Amdt. No. 1837] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6477. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29064; Amdt. No. 1836] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6478. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29063; Amdt. No. 1835] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6479. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace BAe Model ATP Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-189-AD; Amdt. 39-10220; AD 97-24-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6480. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-NM-29-AD;

Amdt. 39-10223; AD 97-24-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6481. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model BAC 1-11 200 and 400 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-187-AD; Amdt. 39-10219; AD 97-24-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6482. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-271-AD; Amdt. 39-10230; AD 97-25-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6483. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fair Displays of Airline Services in Computer Reservations Systems [Docket OST-96-1639] (RIN: 2105-AC56) received December 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6484. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Removal of Class D Airspace, Marshall Army Airfield, Ft. Riley, KS (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ACE-05] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6485. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; St. Louis, MO (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ACE-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6486. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Crete, NE (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ACE-23] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6487. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Atchison, KS (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ACE-26] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6488. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Lexington, NE (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ACE-27] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6489. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Belleville Municipal Airport; Belleville, KS (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ACE-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6490. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Encino, TX (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASW-16] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6491. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Camden, AR (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASW-20] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6492. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; New Braunels Municipal, TX (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASW-21] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6493. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Alliance, NE (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ACE-29] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6494. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 0100 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-185-AD; Amdt. 39-10218; AD 97-24-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6495. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company 58, 60, 90, 100, 200, and 300 Series and Model 2000 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-33-AD; Amdt. 39-10224; AD 97-25-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6496. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries MU-2B Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-22-AD; Amdt. 39-10225; AD 97-25-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6497. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Models 208, 208A, 208B, 425, and 441 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-19-AD; Amdt. 39-10227; AD 97-25-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6498. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company 65, 90, 99, 100, 200, 300, 1900, and 2000 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-20-AD; Amdt. 39-10226; AD 97-25-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6499. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; The Don Luscombe Aviation History Foundation Models 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, T-8F Airplanes; Correction (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-CE-99-AD; Amdt. 39-10229; AD 96-24-17 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6500. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Falcon 2000 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-198-AD; Amdt. 39-10210; AD 97-24-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6501. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Annual Adjustment of Monetary Threshold for Reporting Rail Equipment Accidents/Incidents (Federal Railroad Administration) [FRA Docket No. RAR-5, Notice No. 1] (RIN: 2130-AB21) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6502. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Advance Notice of Arrival: Vessels bound for ports and places in the United States (Coast Guard) [CGD 97-067] (RIN: 2115-AF54) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6503. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone Regulations; Bellingham Bay; Bellingham, WA (Coast Guard) [CGD13-96-028] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6504. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-295-AD; Amdt. 39-10250; AD 97-26-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6505. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-282-AD; Amdt. 39-10239; AD 97-25-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6506. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland Model EC135 P1 and T1 Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-46-AD; Amdt. 39-10240; AD 97-20-13] (RIN: 2120-

AA64) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6507. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace BAe Model ATP Airplanes and Model HS 748 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-104-AD; Amdt. 39-10237; AD 97-25-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6508. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; de Havilland Model DHC-8-100, -200, and -300 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-120-AD; Amdt. 39-10238; AD 97-25-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6509. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Flight Rules in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 28537; Amdt. Nos. 91-255, 93-75, 121-267, 135-71] (RIN: 2120-AG54) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6510. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revisions to Digital Flight Data RECORDer Rules; Correction (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 28109; Amdt. No. 121-266] (RIN: 2120-AF76) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6511. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of the Legal Description of Class E Airspace; Akron, OH (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AGL-39] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6512. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change Controlling Agency for Restricted Area R-5301, Albemarle Sound, NC; and Restricted Areas R-5302A, R-5302B, and R-5302C, Harvey Point, NC (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-24] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6513. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision to Chicago Midway Airport Class C Airspace Area; IL (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AGL-40] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6514. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Coshocton, OH (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AGL-36] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6515. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of the Legal Description of Class E Airspace; Dickinson, ND (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AGL-38] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6516. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of the Legal Description of Class E Airspace; Hancock, MI (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AGL-41] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6517. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Legal Description of Jet Routes and Federal Airways in the Vicinity of Indianapolis, IN (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AGL-31] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6518. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modifications of the Legal Descriptions of Federal Airways in the Vicinity of Colorado Springs, CO (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ANM-9] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6519. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Name Change for Restricted Area 4007A (R-4007A); Patuxent River, MD (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AEA-38] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6520. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Jet Route J-46 (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 95-ASO-21] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6521. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Computer Reservations System Regulations (Part 255) [Docket No. OST-97-3057] (RIN: 2105-AC67) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6522. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hazardous Materials: Cargo Tank Motor Vehicles in Liquified Compressed Gas Service; Response to Petitions for Reconsideration; Editorial Revisions; and Rules Clarification (Research and Special Programs Administration) [Docket No. RSPA-97-2133 (HM-225)] (RIN: 2137-AC97) received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6523. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of VOR Federal Airway V-204; Yakima, WA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ANM-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6524. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change of Using Agency for Restricted Areas R-4105A and R-4105B; No Man's Land Island, MA [Airspace Docket No. 97-ANE-101] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6525. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Realignment of Jet Routes; TX (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASW-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6526. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Realignment of VOR Federal Airway; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASW-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6527. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29074; Amdt. No. 1840] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6528. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29073; Amdt. No. 1839] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6529. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Reduced Vertical Separation Operations (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 28870; Amdt. No. 91-254] (RIN: 2120-AE51) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6530. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Legal Descriptions of Federal Airways; Porterville, CA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AWP-2] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6531. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 29072; Amdt. No. 1838] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6532. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-120 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-299-AD; Amdt. 39-10265; AD 97-26-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 5, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6533. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100, 747-200, 747-300, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-294-AD; Amdt. 39-10264; AD 97-26-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6534. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 050 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-255-AD; Amdt. 39-10267; AD 98-01-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6535. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model HS 748 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-224-AD; Amdt. 39-10269; AD 98-01-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6536. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Aviat Aircraft Inc. Models S-2A, S-2B, and S-2S Airplanes (formerly Pitts Models S-2A, S-2B, and S-2S airplanes) (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-17-AD; Amdt. 39-10263; AD 97-26-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6537. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-90-30 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-201-AD; Amdt. 39-10036; AD 97-11-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6538. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-415 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-31-AD; Amdt. 39-10037; AD 97-11-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6539. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace, Staunton, VA [Airspace Docket No. 96-AEA-11] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6540. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Model 1900D Airplanes (Formerly Beech Aircraft Corporation) (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-CE-27-AD; Amdt. 39-10026; AD 97-10-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6541. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Puritan Bennett Aero Systems Company Series 174290 Constant Flow Airline Portable Oxygen Masks, Part Numbers 174290-14, 174290-24, 174290-34, 174290-44, and 174290-54 (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-31-AD; Amdt. 39-10039; AD 97-11-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6542. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fairchild Aircraft, Inc. SA226 and SA227 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-CE-65-AD; Amdt. 39-10025; AD 97-10-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6543. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Perry, OK (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ASW-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6544. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Socorro, NM (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ASW-23] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6545. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Jasper, TX (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ASW-24] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6546. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100 and -200 Series Airplanes, and Model 747-100, -200, -300, and -SP Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-36-AD; Amdt. 39-9799; AD 96-22-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6547. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron, A Division of Textron Canada, Ltd. Model 206L-1 Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-SW-35-AD; Amdt. 39-9806; AD 96-23-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6548. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class D Airspace, Knob Noster, MO (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-ACE-13] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6549. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; AlliedSignal Inc. GTCP85 Series Auxiliary Power Units (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-ANE-15; Amdt. 39-9927; AD 97-04-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6550. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Dexter, ME (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-ANE-23] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6551. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries, Inc. Model DA 20-A1 Airplanes, Serial Numbers 10002 through 10287 (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-36-AD; Amdt. 39-10062; AD 97-13-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6552. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Oxford, ME (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ANE-22] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6553. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-80 Series Airplanes, Model MD-88 Airplanes, and Model MD-90 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-217-AD; Amdt. 39-9934; AD 97-04-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6554. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-32-AD; Amdt. 39-9952; AD 97-05-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6555. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-153-AD; Amdt. 39-9925; AD 97-04-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6556. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McCauley Propeller Systems 1A103/TCM Series Propellers (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ANE-06; Amdt. 39-9973; AD 97-06-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6557. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Flight Rules in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park; Correction [Docket No. 28537; Amdt. No. 93-74, and SFAR No. 50-2] (RIN: 2120-AF93) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6558. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-249-AD; Amdt. 39-9842; AD 96-25-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6559. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives: Raytheon Aircraft Company (formerly Beech Aircraft Corporation) Model 1900 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-47-AD; Amdt. 39-10074; AD 97-14-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6560. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Model 382 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-35-AD; Amdt. 39-9951; AD 97-05-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6561. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6 Series Turboprop Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ANE-01; Amdt. 39-9936; AD 97-04-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6562. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; AlliedSignal Avionics, Inc. Models GNS-XLS or GNS-XL Flight Management Systems (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-07-AD; Amdt. 39-9947; AD 97-05-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6563. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 28785; Amdt. 1779] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6564. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Hudson, NY [Airspace Docket No. 96-AEA-12] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6565. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Glasflugel Models H301 "Libelle," H301B "Libelle," Standard "Libelle," Standard Libelle 201B, Club Libelle 205, and Kestrel Sailplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-CE-38-AD; Amdt. 39-9908; AD 97-03-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6566. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300-600 and A310 Series Airplanes Equipped with Pre-Modification 5844D4829 Rudders (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-65-AD; Amdt. 39-9931; AD 97-04-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6567. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. AT-300, AT-400, and AT-500 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-CE-55-AD; Amdt. 39-9823; AD 96-23-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6568. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-73-AD; Amdt. 39-10002; AD 97-09-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6569. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-262-AD; Amdt. 39-9825; AD 96-23-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6570. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class D Airspace; Jacksonville, Craig Municipal Airport, FL (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ASO-21] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6571. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 96-NM-118-AD; Amdt. 39-9930; AD 97-04-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6572. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Aerospatiale Model ATR42-200, -300, and -320 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-30-AD; Amdt. 39-9939; AD 97-04-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6573. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Model G-159 (G-I) Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-19-AD; Amdt. 39-10069; AD 97-14-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6574. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Ardmore, OK (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ASW-07] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6575. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Jetstream Aircraft Limited HP137 Mk1, Jetstream Series 200, and Jetstream Models 3101 and 3201 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-CE-44-AD; Amdt. 39-10017; AD 97-10-05] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6576. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; CFM International CFM56-5C Series Turbofan Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-ANE-64; Amdt. 39-9998; AD 97-09-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6577. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Klawock, AK (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-AAL-31] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6578. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Manilla, AR (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ASW-11] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6579. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems Model 369D, E, F, FF, 500N, AH-6, and MH-6 Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-02-AD; Amdt. 39-10081; AD 97-15-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6580. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 050, 100, 200, 300, 400, 600, and 700 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 96-NM-32-AD; Amdt. 39-9932; AD 97-04-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6581. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Territory and Airspace of Iraq (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 28691; SFAR No. 77] (RIN: 2120-AG25) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6582. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Nuiqsut, AK [Airspace Docket No. 96-AAL-10] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6583. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Removal of Class D Airspace, Marshall Army Airfield, Ft. Riley, KS (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ACE-5] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6584. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; HOAC Austria Model DV-20 Katana Airplanes [Docket No. 95-CE-62-AD; Amdt. 39-9832; AD 96-24-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6585. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Realignment of Jet Route J-522 [Airspace Docket No. 95-AGL-16] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6586. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Sturgeon Bay, WI (Coast Guard) [CGD09-94-029] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6587. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Temporary Drawbridge Regulations: Mississippi River, Iowa and Illinois (Coast Guard) [CGD08-96-062] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6588. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Uniform Procedures for State Highway Safety Programs (Federal Highway Administration) [NHTSA Docket No. 93-55, Notice 5] (RIN: 2127-AG69) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6589. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) [Docket No. 95-28; Notice 10] (RIN: 2127-AF73) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6590. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials Regulations; Regulatory Review; Responses to Petitions for Reconsideration [Docket HM-222B; Amdt. No. 172-149] (RIN: 2137-AC76) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6591. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Control of Drug Use and Alcohol Misuse in Natural Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas, and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operations Alcohol Misuse Prevention Program (Research and Special Programs Administration) [Docket PS-150, Notice No. 6] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6592. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hazardous Materials: Radiation Protection Program Requirement (Research and Special Programs Administration) [Docket No. RSPA-97-2850 (HM-169B)] (RIN: 2137-AD14) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6593. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hazardous Materials: Radiation Protection Program Requirement (Research and Special Programs Administration) [Docket No. RSPA-97-2850 (HM-169B)] (RIN: 2137-AD14) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6594. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Alcohol/Drug Regulations: Technical Amendments; Qualifications for Locomotive Engineers: Correction (Federal Railroad Administration) [Docket No. RSOR-6, Notice No. 45; Docket No. RSOR-9, Notice No. 9] (RIN: 2130-AA63) received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6595. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Aerospatiale Model ATR42-300 and ATR42-320 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-283-AD; Amdt. 39-10262; AD 97-26-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6596. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D Airspace; Hickory, NC (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-22] received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6597. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Covington, KY (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-20] received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6598. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation and Modification of Restricted Areas; FL (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6599. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Time of Designation for Restricted Areas; GA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 96-ASO-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6600. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pilot, Flight Instructor, Ground Instructor, and Pilot School Certification Rules (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 25910; Amdt. Nos. 91-255, 121-267, and 142-2] (RIN: 2120-AE71) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6601. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Grand Rapids, MI (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AGL-44] received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6602. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Birmingham, AL (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-15] received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6603. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (Coast Guard) [CGD 95-073] (RIN: 2115-AF44) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6604. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Regattas and Marine Parades (Coast Guard) [CGD 95-054] (RIN: 2115-AF17) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6605. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-NM-147-AD; Amdt. 39-10244; AD 97-26-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6606. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Aerospatiale Model ATR42-200, -300, and -320 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-NM-140-AD; Amdt. 39-10254; AD 97-26-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6607. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Model Hawker 1000 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-140-AD; Amdt. 39-10253; AD 97-26-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6608. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-259-AD; Amdt. 39-10247; AD 97-26-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6609. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Model A109K2 Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-54-AD; Amdt. 39-10252; AD 97-26-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6610. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace (Jetstream) Model HS 748 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-222-

AD; Amdt. 39-10248; AD 97-26-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6611. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA-31T, PA-31T1, PA-31T2, PA-31T3, PA-42, PA-42720, and PA-42-1000 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-41-AD; Amdt. 39-10255; AD 97-26-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6612. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. Models EMB-110P1 and EMB-110P2 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-39-AD; Amdt. 39-10256; AD 97-26-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6613. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; MAULE Models MX-7-420 and MXT-7-420 Airplanes and Models M-7-235 and M-7-235A Airplanes Modified in Accordance With Maule Supplemental Type Certificate SA2661SO (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-40-AD; Amdt. 39-10257; AD 97-26-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6614. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Models 1900, 1900C, and 1900D Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-13-AD; Amdt. 39-10258; AD 97-26-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6615. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Models 402C and 414A Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 90-CE-28-AD; Amdt. 39-10259; AD 97-26-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6616. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Teledyne Continental Motors IO-360, TSIO-360, LTSIO-360, IO-520, LIO-520, TSIO-520, LTSIO-520 Series, and Rolls-Royce plc IO-360 and TSIO-360 Series Reciprocating Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 93-ANE-08; Amdt. 39-10260; AD 97-26-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6617. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Mooney Aircraft Corporation Models M20F, M20J, and M20L Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 96-CE-51-AD; Amdt. 39-10251; AD 97-26-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6618. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model SA-360C Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-50-AD; Amdt. 39-10261; AD 97-26-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6619. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace (Jetstream) Model 4101 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-146-AD; Amdt. 39-10241; AD 97-25-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6620. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Aerospatiale Model ATR42 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-161-AD; Amdt. 39-10243; AD 97-25-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6621. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320 and A321 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-183-AD; Amdt. 39-10242; AD 97-25-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6622. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH (ECD) Model BO-105A, BO-105C, BO-105S, BO-105LS A-1, and BO-105LS A-3 Helicopters and Eurocopters Canada Ltd. Model BO-105LS A-3 Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-44-AD; Amdt. 39-10245; AD 97-26-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6623. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Birmingham, AL (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASO-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6624. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change Controlling Agency for Restricted Areas R-6412A and R-6412B; Camp Williams, UT (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ANM-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6625. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Gallup, NM (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-ASW-25] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6626. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Mason, MI (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 97-AGL-27] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 23, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6627. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Marine Sanitation Device Standard—Establishment of Drinking Water Intake No Discharge Zone(s) Under Section 312(f)(4)(B) of the Clean Water Act [FRL-5942-4] (RIN: 2040-AC61) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6628. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report entitled "The Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation Program, Annual Report to Congress FY 1996," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 9604; to the Committee on Science.

6629. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Veterans Education: Approval of Correspondence Programs or Courses (RIN: 2900-AH91) received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6630. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Loan Guaranty: Electronic Payment of Funding Fee (RIN: 2900-AH73) received November 19, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6631. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Guidelines for Furnishing Sensori-neural Aids (RIN: 2900-AI60) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6632. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Schedule for Rating Disabilities; The Cardiovascular System (RIN: 2900-AE40) received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6633. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Loan Guaranty: Requirements for Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loans (RIN: 2900-AI92) received November 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6634. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Active Military Service Certified Under Section 401 of Public Law 95-202 (RIN: 2900-AI91) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6635. A letter from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting the combined third and fourth quarter reports on the expenditure and need for worker adjustment assistance training funds under the Trade Act of 1974, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(2); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6636. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Interest Rate [Rev. Rul. 97-53] received December 10, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6637. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Adoption Assistance [Notice 97-70] received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6638. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—IRS Adoption Taxpayer Identification Numbers [TD 8739] (RIN: 1545-AV09) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6639. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination if Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property [Rev. Rul. 97-49] received November 20, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6640. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Special Rules for Certain Transactions Where Stated Principal Amount Does Not Exceed $2,800,000 [Rev. Rul. 97-56] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6641. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Simplified Exclusion Ratio [Notice 98-2] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6642. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Treatment of Loans with Below-Market Interest Rates [Rev. Rul. 97-57] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6643. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tax forms and instructions [Rev. Proc. 97-57] received December 16, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6644. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—General Business Credit [Rev. Rul. 97-51] received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6645. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Minimum Distribution Requirements [Notice 97-75] received December 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6646. A letter from the Assistant Commissioner (Examination), Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Market Segment Specialization Program Audit Techniques Guides—received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6647. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Income Tax Return Preparer Penalties—1997 Federal Income Tax Returns Due Dilligence Requirements for Earned Income Credit [Notice 97-65] received December 4, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6648. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tax Forms and Instructions [Rev. Proc. 97-60] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6649. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Methods of Signing [TD 8689] (RIN: 1545-AT23) received November 24, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6650. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Presidentially Declared Disasters in North Dakota and Minnesota [Notice 97-62] received November 25, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6651. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Guidance on Making Payments for Charitable Remainder Trusts [Notice 97-68] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6652. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Grace Period Interest [Notice 97-67] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6653. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Electronic Funds Transfer—Temporary Waiver of Failure to Deposit Penalty for Certain Taxpayers and Request for Comments on Future Guidance [Notice 97-43] received November 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6654. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Foreign Base Company Income [Rev. Rul. 97-48] received November 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6655. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Contracts with reserves based on segregated asset accounts [Rev. Rul. 97-46] received November 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6656. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Permitted disparity with respect to employer-provided contributions or benefits [Rev. Rul. 97-45] received November 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6657. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tax forms and instructions [Rev. Proc. 97-61] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6658. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property [Rev. Rul. 98-4] received December 18, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6659. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Partnership Magnetic Media Filing Requirements [Notice 97-77] received December 17, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6660. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 97-69] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6661. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Taxation of DISC Income to Shareholders [Rev. Rul. 97-49] received December 2, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6662. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Interest on underpayments [Rev. Proc. 98-15] received January 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6663. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rules and regulations [Rev. Proc. 98-14] received January 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6664. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-11] received January 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6665. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-12] received January 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6666. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Consolidated returns—limitations on the use of certain losses and credits; overall foreign loss accounts [TD 8751] (RIN: 1545-AV30) received January 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6667. A letter from the Assistant Commissioner (Examination), Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Petroleum Industry Coordinated Issue: Replacement of Underground Storage Tanks at Retail Gasoline Stations—received January 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6668. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Imposition and rates of tax; bows and arrows [Rev. Rul. 98-5] received January 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6669. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Low-Income Housing Credit [Rev. Rul. 98-3] received January 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6670. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Election Not to Apply Look-Back Method in De Minimis Cases [TD 8756] (RIN: 1545-AV78) received January 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6671. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's "Major" final rule—Interim Rules for Mental Health Parity [T.D. 8741] (RIN: 1545-AV53) received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6672. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-4] received

January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6673. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Cash or Deferred Arrangements; Nondiscrimination [Notice 98-1] received December 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6674. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Returns Relating to Interest on Education Loans [Notice 98-7] received December 33, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6675. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Limitations on Benefits and Contributions under Qualified Plans [Rev. Rul. 98-1] received December 33, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6676. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—SIMPLE IRA Plan Guidance [Notice 98-4] received December 33, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6677. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Foreign Tax Credit Abuse [Notice 98-5] received December 33, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6678. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-8] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6679. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-5] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6680. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-7] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6681. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Requirements Respecting the Adoption or Change of Accounting Method; Extensions of Time to Make Elections [TD 8742] (RIN: 1545-AU42 and 1545-AV20) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6682. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Excise Tax; Special Rules for Alaska; Definitions [TD 8748] (RIN: 1545-AU53) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6683. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Funding Method for Defined Benefit Pension Plan [Rev. Proc. 98-10] received December 33, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6684. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Disclaimer of Interest and Powers [TD 8744] (RIN: 1545-AR52) received December 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6685. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 97-74] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6686. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Publicly Traded Partnerships [Notice 98-3] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6687. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of correct tax liability [Rev. Proc. 98-13] received January 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6688. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—*Pacific Enterprises and Subsidiaries v. Commissioner* [T.C. Dkt. No. 5295-91] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6689. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—*William R. Jackson v. Commissioner* [T.C. Dkt. No. 23558-94] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6690. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-1] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6691. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Qualified Funeral Trusts [Notice 98-6] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6692. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—*Transwestern Pipeline Co. v. United States*—received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6693. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Deposits of Excise Taxes [TD 8740] (RIN: 1545-AV03) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6694. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of correct tax liability [Rev. Proc. 98-2] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6695. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Qualified Small Business Stock (RIN: 1545-AU34) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6696. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Application of HIPAA Group Market Rules to Individuals Who Were Denied Coverage Due to a Health Status-Related Factor [26 CFR Part 54] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6697. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Application of HIPAA Group Market Portability Rules to Health Flexible Spending Arrangements [26 CFR Part 54] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6698. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—General Rules for Making and Maintaining Qualified Electing Fund Elections [TD 8750] (RIN: 1545-AV40) received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6699. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 97-55] received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6700. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Sale of Residence from Qualified Personal Residence Trust [TD 8743] (RIN: 1545-AU12) received December 22, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6701. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—IRS Reassures Nursery Growers about Farming Exception [Announcement 97-120] received November 28, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6702. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Interim Guidance on Roth IRAs [Announcement 97-122] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6703. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Last-in, first-out inventories [Rev. Rul. 97-52] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6704. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Substantial Modification of Rental Agreements [Notice 97-72] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6705. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Returns Relating to Higher Education Tuition and Related Expenses [Notice 97-73] received December 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6706. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-6] received January 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6707. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Reorganizations/Treatment of Warrants as Securities [TD 8752] (RIN: 1545-AU67) received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6708. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting

the Service's final rule—Reorganizations; Nonqualified Preferred Stock [TD 8753] (RIN: 1545–AV85) received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6709. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Debt Instruments with Original Issue Discount; Annuity Contracts [TD 8754] (RIN: 1545–AS76) received January 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6710. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Definition of structure [TD 8745] (RIN: 1545–AR63) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6711. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98–3] received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6712. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98–10] received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6713. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Certain Cost-sharing Payments [Rev. Rul. 97–55] received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6714. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Amortizable Bond Premium [TD 8746] (RIN: 1545–AU09) received December 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6715. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Empowerment Zone Employment Credit [TD 8747] (RIN: 1545–AU30) received December 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6716. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Qualified Zone Academy Bonds [TD 8755] (RIN: 1545–AV74) received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6717. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rules and regulations [Rev. Proc. 98–9] received January 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6718. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Definition of United States Resident; Religious Record of Birth or Baptism as Evidence of Citizenship; Plan to Help Blind and Disabled Individuals Achieve Self-Support [Regulations No. 16] (RIN: 0960–AE05) received November 26, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6719. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Technical Change Regarding Duty Free Entry of Metal Articles [T.D. 98–4] received December 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6720. A letter from the Acting Associate Chief, Forest Service, transmitting annual report covering major accomplishments of the Forest Service for fiscal year 1996, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1674(c); jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Resources.

6721. A letter from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's annual report on activities under the Denton Program for the period July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997; jointly to the Committees on National Security and International Relations.

6722. A letter from the Chairperson, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the Commission's report entitled "Equal Educational Opportunity and Nondiscrimination for Students with Disabilities: Federal Enforcement of Section 504," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1975; jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and the Judiciary.

6723. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting a copy of the Board's request for supplemental appropriations, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 1903(b)(7); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Pursuant to the order of the House on November 13, 1997 the following report was filed on December 19, 1997]

Mr. LEACH: Committee on Banking and Financial Services. H.R. 217. A bill to amend title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to consolidate the Federal programs for housing assistance for the homeless into a block grant program that ensures that States and communities are provided sufficient flexibility to use assistance amounts effectively; with an amendment (Rept. 105–407). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of Rule X and clause 4 of Rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NETHERCUTT:

H.R. 3089. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the submission to Congress and the public of the identity of any individual for whom a waiver of the eligibility requirements for interment in Arlington National Cemetery is granted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mrs. CHENOWETH, and Mr. ROHRABACHER):

H.R. 3090. A bill to require the withdrawal of the United States from the International Monetary Fund; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 3091. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to require a two-thirds vote on the passage of legislation that repeals, increases, or waives the discretionary spending limit or repeals or waives the pay-as-you-go provisions of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 if the current year budget was not in surplus or the budget for the fiscal year immediately preceding such year was not in surplus; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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.

By Mr. BARR of Georgia:

H.R. 3092. A bill to repeal authority for administration of an au pair program by the United States Information Agency; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BARR of Georgia:

H.R. 3093. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add the drug flunitrazepam to schedule I of the schedules of control substances; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.

By Mr. GIBBONS (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

H.R. 3094. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from promulgating certain regulations relating to Indian gaming activities; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. ARCHER (for himself and Mr. KASICH):

H.R. 3095. A bill to establish the Bipartisan Panel to Design Long-Range Social Security Reform; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GREENWOOD:

H.R. 3096. A bill to correct a provision relating to termination of benefits for convicted persons; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LARGENT (for himself, Mr. PAXON, Mr. KASICH, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CANNON, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. COOKSEY, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. DUNN of Washington, Mr. EHRLICH, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. JONES, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. METCALF, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PAUL, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. RILEY, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. BOB SCHAFFER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington, Mr. SNOWBARGER, Mr. STUMP, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. BONILLA):

H.R. 3097. A bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LIVINGSTON:

H.R. 3098. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate public financing of Presidential election campaigns; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCNULTY (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORD, Mr. PAUL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FROST, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. BALDACCI):

H.R. 3099. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require that recipients of Federal payments have the option to receive such payments by electronic funds transfer or by check; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

By Mr. BONIOR (for himself, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COYNE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GREEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KLINK, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MANTON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MILLER of California, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. STARK, Mr. TORRES, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. FURSE, Mr. JACKSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SABO, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. STOKES, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. VENTO, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. WYNN):

H.R. 3100. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the Federal minimum wage; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3101. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require faster vesting of employer contributions to defined benefit plans, to require employer plans to permit rollovers to individual retirement accounts on an employee's separation from service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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.

By Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3102. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an inflation adjustment for the maximum amount which may be contributed to an individual retirement plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COOK, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. BOB SCHAFFER, Mr. SNOWBARGER, Mr. BRADY, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. ROGAN, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. CANNON, Mr. PEASE, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. RYUN):

H.R. 3103. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the standard deduction for married individuals, to exclude certain amounts of interest and dividends from gross income, to increase the deduction for the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals, and to allow private colleges to establish prepaid tuition plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RILEY (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. CANNON, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. PAUL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. DELAY):

H.R. 3104. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that married couples may file a combined return under which each spouse is taxed using the rates applicable to unmarried individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 3105. A bill to provide that the President may not waive the prohibitions on providing to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam financing and other forms of assistance by the Overseas Private Investment Corportation or the Export-Import Bank; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, 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.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 3106. A bill to restrict the use of the exchange stabilization fund; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. SAXTON:

H.R. 3107. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for termination of a military retiree's required contributions to the military Survivor Benefit Plan after the retiree has made contributions for 30 years and has attained age 70; to the Committee on National Security.

By Mr. SAXTON (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 3108. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to correct inequities in payments to home health agencies for home health services under the interim payment system; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, 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.

By Mr. SOLOMON:

H.R. 3109. A bill to establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. TALENT (for himself, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 3110. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small employers a credit against income tax for certain expenses for long-term training of employees in highly skilled metalworking trades; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VISCLOSKY:

H.R. 3111. A bill to assure that the services of a non-emergency department physician are available to hospital patients 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week in all non-Federal hospitals with at least 100 licensed beds; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 3112. A bill to authorize funds for the use by the United States Customs Service of high energy container x-ray systems and automated targeting systems for inspection of cargo at major checkpoints along the borders of the United States that are contiguous with other countries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3113. A bill to reauthorize the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. LEACH (for himself, Mr. LAFALCE, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. VENTO, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. JACKSON):

H.R. 3114. A bill to authorize United States participation in a quota increase and the New Arrangements to Borrow of the International Monetary Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 3115. A bill to establish professional development partnerships to improve the quality of America's teachers and the academic achievement of students in the classroom, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ARMEY:

H. Con. Res. 201. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the two Houses; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GOODLING (for himself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. COOK, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SNOWBARGER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. LARGENT, and Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky):

H. Con. Res. 202. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government should acknowledge the importance of at-home parents and should not discriminate against families who forego a second income in order for a mother or father to be at home with their children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MASCARA (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MURTHA, and Mr. KILDEE):

H. Con. Res. 203. Concurrent resolution requesting that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

By Mr. RYUN:

H. Con. Res. 204. Concurrent resolution honoring the members of the United States Armed Forces who served, and the families of members of the United States Armed Forces who lost their lives or were injured, during the Tet Offensive of the Vietnam War; to the Committee on National Security.

By Mr. DREIER:

H. Res. 335. A resolution providing for a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ARMEY:

H. Res. 336. A resolution to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ARMEY:

H. Res. 337. A resolution providing for the hour of meeting of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEWIS of California:

H. Res. 338. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House on the death of the Honorable Sonny Bono, a Representative from the State of California; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BARR of Georgia:

H. Res. 339. A resolution expressing the sense of the House that sections 3345 through 3349 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Vacancies Act"), relating to the appointment of certain officers to fill vacant positions in Executive agencies, apply to all Executive agencies, including the Department of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, 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.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H. Res. 340. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any budgetary surplus achieved by the end of fiscal year 2002 be saved for investment in the Social Security Program; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

232. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 75 memorializing the Congress of the United States to redirect some military spending, not to include reductions in veterans programs or benefits or to compromise our national security, to the states to enable them to meet domestic needs; to the Committee on National Security.

233. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, relative to a resolution urging the United States Department of the Navy to take actions necessary to enable the continued operation of the Navy Exchange located at the site of the former Orlando Naval Training Center; to the Committee on National Security.

234. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 memorializing the Congress of the United States to make changes in the Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance Program; to the Committee on National Security.

235. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 94 memorializing Congress, the President, and the Federal Trade Commission to maintain existing standards for the use of the "Made in USA" label; to the Committee on Commerce.

236. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 89 memorializing the Congress of the United States and the EPA to halt the imposition of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone and particulate and reconsider its decision to impose even more stringent standards upon this Commonwealth until the required studies and impact analyses are completed; to the Committee on Commerce.

237. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Texas, relative to Senate Resolution 55 requesting the Congress of the United States to continue its efforts to determine the location and status of all United States military personnel still missing in Southeast Asia; to the Committee on International Relations.

238. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 memorializing the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the integrity of and prohibit the physical desecration of the American flag; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

239. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 304 memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to direct both the FTC and the Department of Justice to examine the proposed actions of Westinghouse Electric Corporation to determine whether the sales would stifle competition, significantly raise consumer and supplier prices or detrimentally impact suppliers of the nuclear and non-nuclear power generation market; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 12: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. MANTON.

H.R. 44: Mr. EVANS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. SAXTON.

H.R. 45: Mr. TURNER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. REYES.

H.R. 59: Mr. ROGAN, Mr. ENSIGN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. GANSKE, Mr. GOSS, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. CAMP, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. RILEY.

H.R. 65: Mr. JOHN.

H.R. 80: Mr. QUINN.

H.R. 96: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon.

H.R. 107: Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. NEY.

H.R. 130: Mr. KLINK.

H.R. 131: Mr. HALL of Texas.

H.R. 132: Mr. ARCHER, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. HALL of Texas, and Ms. RIVERS.

H.R. 133: Mr. KLUG.

H.R. 165: Mr. BONILLA and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 192: Mr. LUTHER.

H.R. 219: Mr. METCALF and Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 298: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 303: Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GOODE, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington, Mr. COOK, and Mr. JOHN.

H.R. 306: Mr. POSHARD, Mr. WEYGAND, Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut, and Mr. SISISKY.

H.R. 332: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 337: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 339: Mr. GREEN.

H.R. 399: Mr. PAXON.

H.R. 402: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 419: Ms. RIVERS.

H.R. 444: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 498: Ms. RIVERS.

H.R. 612: Mr. COSTELLO and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 614: Mr. PAXON, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.

H.R. 633: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 634: Mr. MCCRERY.

H.R. 635: Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 676: Mr. WALSH, Mr. HALL of Ohio, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 744: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 758: Mr. COOK and Ms. DUNN of Washington.

H.R. 766: Mr. YATES and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 778: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 779: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 780: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 859: Mr. STEARNS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. JOHN.

H.R. 871: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 872: Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. MATSUI, and Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 934: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.

H.R. 950: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

H.R. 964: Mr. POSHARD.

H.R. 979: Mr. KLINK, Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. COOK, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. FOWLER, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. POMEROY.

H.R. 980: Mr. HUTCHINSON.

H.R. 1038: Ms. KILPATRICK and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1059: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington and Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 1111: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MATSUI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DIXON, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BERRY, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. WISE, Mr. COOK, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FORD, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1126: Mr. ENSIGN, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCDADE, Mr. HAYWORTH, and Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut.

H.R. 1130: Mr. OBEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 1134: Mr. GEJDENSON.

H.R. 1146: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Mr. COMBEST.

H.R. 1147: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1165: Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1205: Mr. HOUGHTON.

H.R. 1215: Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1231: Mr. PEASE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mrs. THURMAN.

H.R. 1242: Mr. BAKER.

H.R. 1261: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R.1266: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1301: Mr. BORKSI.

H.R. 1302: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 1334: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1415: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. CARSON, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE.

H.R. 1425: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1453: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 1500: Mrs. KELLY and Mr. MANTON.

H.R. 1507: Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts and Mr. FORD.

H.R. 1521: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.

H.R. 1531: Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. ENSIGN.

H.R. 1592: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1595: Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. NUSSLE, and Mr. HILLEARY.

H.R. 1601: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. FROST, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LOBIONDO,

Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. MANTON, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mrs. KELLY.

H.R. 1614: Mr. LUTHER.

H.R. 1679: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. MOLLOHAN.

H.R. 1682: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1689: Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. GOSS, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. NORTHUP, and Mr. GALLEGLY.

H.R. 1698: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1706: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MANTON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. HORN.

H.R. 1715: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. BENTSEN, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1763: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1788: Mr. VENTO.

H.R. 1812: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 1813: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KIND of Wisconsin, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1858: Mr. MCNULTY.

H.R. 1864: Mr. GOODLING.

H.R. 1874: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1915: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1970: Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. ROEMER, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 2021: Mr. NETHERCUTT.

H.R. 2094: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.

H.R. 2130: Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. STARK, Mr. YATES, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. FURSE.

H.R. 2154: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 2175: Mr. BAESLER.

H.R. 2202: Mr. CHABOT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. WELDON of Florida.

H.R. 2212: Mr. STARK and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2221: Mr. CANADY of Florida and Mr. BOYD.

H.R. 2224: Mr. LAMPSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCNULTY, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. STUPAK, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. MANTON.

H.R. 2228: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LAFALCE, and Mr. SAWYER.

H.R. 2281: Mr. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2313: Mr. STUMP, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 2351: Mr. FORD, Mr. FORBES, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut.

H.R. 2365: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2408: Mr. WYNN, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. WEYGAND, and Mr. DELLUMS.

H.R. 2454: Mr. FORD, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. CLAYTON, and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 2456: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. ROEMER.

H.R. 2457: Mr. FORD, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. CLAYTON, and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 2477: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 2478: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 2481: Mr. COYNE and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 2495: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 2504: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COYNE, Mr. VENTO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FROST, and Mr. NEY.

H.R. 2509: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NORWOOD, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. HEFLEY.

H.R. 2523: Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 2527: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 2547: Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 2563: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 2567: Mr. WELDON of Florida.

H.R. 2568: Mr. BLUNT and Mr. BOYD.

H.R. 2586: Mr. LUTHER and Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 2591: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FOLEY, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2625: Mr. SKEEN, Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. DELAY, Mr. REGULA, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ENGLISH, of Pennsylvania, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. KASICH, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. STUMP, Mr. WHITE, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SNOWBARGER and Mr. BLUNT.

H.R. 2652: Mrs. MORELLA.

H.R. 2667: Mr. PAXON.

H.R. 2693: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2695: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SANDLIN, and Mr. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 2714: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 2723: Mr. WELDON of Florida.

H.R. 2734: Mr. CANNON, Mr. NEY, and Mr. CAMP.

H.R. 2741: Mr. COX of California.

H.R. 2748: Mr. GANSKE.

H.R. 2754: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2760: Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. STUMP, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LUTHER.

H.R. 2786: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 2807: Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. FARR of California.

H.R. 2821: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. BOYD, and Ms. STABENOW.

H.R. 2828: Ms. NORTON, Mr. SANDLIN, and Mr. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 2846: Mr. SAM JOHNSON, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. CANNON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington, Mr. SALMON, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mr. NETHERCUTT.

H.R. 2868: Mr. STUMP.

H.R. 2870: Mr. KLUG, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. STOKES, Mr. SAWYER, and Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 2874: Mr. WELDON of Florida.

H.R. 2900: Mrs. THURMAN and Mr. FORD.

H.R. 2908: Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. EWING, Mr. LEACH, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2912: Mr. FORD, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WAMP, Mr. COBLE, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. COOK, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. SKAGGS, Mr. RILEY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. ROEMER, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. GORDON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. JOHN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 2921: Mr. CAMP, Mr. COBURN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado, Mr. POSHARD, Mr. KLINK, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. BERRY, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. TANNER, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. STUMP, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. BOYD, Mr. GOSS, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. ROGAN, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. UPTON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WISE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. HORN, Mr. PARKER, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. KIND of Wisconsin, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. COOK, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H.R. 2936: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. HOEKSTRA.

H.R. 2943: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FORD, Mr. MOAKLEY, and Mr. HILLIARD.

H.R. 2944: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 2955: Mr. HOLDEN and Mr. METCALF.

H.R. 2985: Mr. HAYWORTH and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 3014: Mr. HORN.

H.R. 3033: Ms. WATERS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BROWN of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WYNN, Mr. FORD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SPRATT, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BOYD, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Ms. FURSE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DIXON, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. MCKINNEY.

H.R. 3043: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. GEJDENSON.

H.R. 3050: Mr. KLECZKA.

H.R. 3051: Mr. CARDIN.

H.R. 3081: Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FROST, Mr. GREEN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MANTON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. STARK.

H.J. Res. 98: Mr. ENGEL.

H.J. Res. 102: Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. QUINN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SNOWBARGER, Mr. HAMILTON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WELLER, Mr. ROEMER, Mr. PORTER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. OWENS, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. SESSIONS.

H. Con. Res. 55: Mr. HORN.

H. Con. Res. 68: Mr. STARK.

H. Con. Res. 80: Mr. GALLEGLY and Mr. COOK.

H. Con. Res. 106: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Con. Res. 112: Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. SANDERS.

H. Con. Res. 121: Mr. SHAW.

H. Con. Res. 148: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. MEEHAN.

H. Con. Res. 152: Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. OLVER.

H. Con. Res. 184: Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. PORTER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FORD, Mr. CASTLE, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. STARK, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H. Res. 37: Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. FORD.

H. Res. 211: Mr. COBLE and Mr. LIVINGSTON.

H. Res. 246: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. PORTER.

H. Res. 304: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1500: Mr. MEEHAN.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 1 of rule XXII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

29. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, relative to supporting the passage of H.R. 1858 and S. 869, both entitled "Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1997" currently pending before the United States Congress or, in the alternative, the passage of such other federal legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

30. Also, a petition of the Essex County Board of Supervisors, Elizabethtown, New York, relative to supporting Federal Legislation designating English as the official language of the United States of America; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

31. Also, a petition of the City of North Wildwood, New Jersey, relative to opposing H.R. 1534, known as the Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ASTRONAUT JOE FRANK EDWARDS, JR.

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the extraordinary accomplishments of one of Alabama's finest, Astronaut Joe Frank Edwards, Jr., of Lineville, Alabama, who is piloting the space shuttle *Endeavor,* which took off on January 22, 1998.

Graduating from Clay County's Lineville High School in 1976, Joe went on to receive a B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1980 and an M.S. in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee in 1994. As a Naval Aviator, Joe has been honored with many medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal. Joe has also received the Daedalian Superior Airmanship Award in 1992, the Fighter Squadron 143 Fighter Pilot of the Year in 1984 and 1985, the Fighter Squadron 142 Fighter Pilot of the Year in 1990, 1991, and 1992, and the Carrier Airwing Seven Pilot of the Year in 1985, 1990, and 1991.

In December 1994, Joe was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA. After completing a year of training and evaluation, he has qualified for assignment as a shuttle pilot.

During the STS–89 mission, Joe will be responsible for undocking from the eighth shuttle rendezvous with Russia's Mir Space Station and piloting the flight around the space station. The nine day shuttle mission objectives include replacing astronaut Dr. David Wolf with Andy Thomas who will be the next U.S. crew member on the Mir Space Station. More than 7,000 pounds of experiments, supplies, and hardware are scheduled to be transferred between the two spacecraft.

Clay County, as well as all of Alabama, is very proud of Joe's exceptional hard work and commitment to space flight. I congratulate Joe on this extraordinary honor and am proud to have him represent us on this important mission.

FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF MANAGED CARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, my bill H.R. 337 establishes consumer protections in managed care plans—just like many other bills currently pending before the Congress.

One unique feature in H.R. 337, however, is the requirement that when a managed care plan enrolls a person, they must soon do a health profile or work-up on that person. Medicare and private insurance plans pay an HMO hundreds of dollars a month to "maintenance" an enrollee's health. But how can the HMO provide maintenance or preventative care (such as immunizations, mammograms, etc.), unless it sees the enrollee and establishes a health benchmark on the person?

My legislation is designed to ensure that HMOs really do maintain people's health. By scheduling an appointment and the collection of basic health data, the HMO can truly begin to provide managed care health. It can determine whether the person is a smoker, overweight has high cholesterol, is diabetic, is facing glaucoma, etc. Once these benchmarks have been established, the HMO can begin the counseling or the other services needed to "maintain" or improve health—thus fulfilling the promise of managed care.

The November 5, 1997 issue of the *Journal of American Medical Association* (JAMA) contains an article, "The Relationship Between Patient Income and Physical discussion of Health Behaviors," which states, "Although unhealthy behaviors were common among all income groups, physician discussion of health risk behaviors fell far short of the universal risk assessment and discussion recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force. We conclude that the prevalence of physician discussion of health risk behaviors needs to be improved."

If physicians would do more to counsel their patients especially the lower income, these individuals could receive adequate and informative health care advice. As the *JAMA* article said, "Physicians also need to be more vigilant in properly identifying and counseling low-income patients at risk. Increasing the prevalence of physician discussion of health risk behaviors could greatly affect productivity, quality of life, mortality, and health costs in the United States. If the nation is truly interested in health improvement, a multifaceted approach is required to diminish the social gradients in health related to education, income, housing and opportunity, including a more effective national system for preventive services (Papanicolaou tests, breast examinations, immunizations) as well as improved discussion of health risk behaviors."

For instance in the case of smoking the *JAMA* article states: "Our data indicate that 49% of all patients with whom behavioral discussions occur attempt to cut down or quit smoking based on their physicians' advice and 49% of those who report attempting to change behavior no longer smoke. . .increasing the prevalence of physician discussion of smoking by 50% would result in a 6% decrease in the prevalence of smoking. Based on mortality and cost estimates of smoking, this reduction in smoking could potentially result in 24,000 annual deaths delayed and a $3 billion annual cost savings to our society."

The December 3, 1997 issue of *JAMA*, contains an article, "Cost-effectiveness of the Clinical Practice Recommendations in the AHCPR Guideline for Smoking Cessation,"which states that" Tobacco use has been cited as the chief avoidable cause of death in the United States, responsible for more than 420,000 deaths annually, Despite this, physicians and other practitioners fail to assess and counsel smokers consistently and effectively." Again, an HMO would be the ideal setting to help a person stop smoking, but they can't do it if they don't see the patient—and that's why we need H.R. 337.

As we start to pay HMOs thousands of dollars a year for maintaining health, let's make sure that they at least see the individual and do something to earn these payments. If the premise of managed care is correct, then H.R. 337's early profiling and subsequent counseling will save the HMOs money in the long run by avoiding future expensive acute care services.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE CULINARY ARTS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a remarkable culinary school that was recently established in Orange County, CA, the Orange County School of Culinary Arts.

The school is sponsored by the Regional Occupation Program (ROP) of North Orange County. ROP is responsible for rehabilitating and re-training underprivileged and unemployed citizens and high school students to compete and succeed in a competitive work environment.

The Orange County School of Culinary Arts offers a wide variety of culinary classes that is as good, if not better, than that of the larger culinary institutes in America. While the cost of tuition at one of the big three Culinary Arts schools often exceeds $27,000 per year, a course at the Orange County School of the Culinary Arts costs $40 per class, a $65 uniform fee and the cost of the food that is prepared and consumed.

There is currently a shortage of professionally trained chefs in the United States by 2 million. By the turn of the century, this number is expected to increase dramatically with the expansion of the cruise industry and the resort business throughout the United States. In Orange County alone, there are 8 positions available for every qualified applicant, and existing programs have not been filing the void.

The community has already flocked to the program. Almost 500 students have already

enrolled when the student body was only projected to be 120 students. The courses range from beginner and advanced levels of preparation for a variety of foods, to restaurant management, nutrition, and sanitation. All courses are instructed by chefs with an extensive training in internationally-renown culinary academies and working backgrounds from the finest resorts and cruise ships around the world.

I would like to recognize the Orange County School of Culinary Arts as a benchmark for other programs to follow. This program will not only alleviate the shortage of professionally-trained chefs, it will open a world of opportunities to neighboring citizens. From now on, a student can now pay for a professional training equal to those of the finest academies for a fraction of the cost. The Orange County School of Culinary Arts stands before us as a shining example of success for other communities to follow in the coming years.

A CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE—THE YORK COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TURNS 100

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, January 13, 1997 marked the 100th anniversary of one of south central Pennsylvania's most important and prolific organizations. Originally established in 1898 as the York Merchant's Association, the York County Chamber of Commerce has continued to faithfully carry out its mission to expand economic opportunities for commercial, mercantile, and industrial companies while enhancing accessibility to area products.

York County has benefitted immeasurably from the existence and activity of the Chamber. Ranging from the $1.5 million raised by the Chamber in 1925 to connect the neighboring communities in Lancaster County via the Wrightsville Bridge, to the development of a communications link between Chamber members and worldwide customers via the Internet, the Chamber has always been working to bring people together in the best interest of our community. They have succeeded over and over again in making York a better place to live.

But York is not the only beneficiary of the Chamber's efforts. During its early years, the York County Chamber of Commerce helped lead the national effort to recognize and promote business interests by becoming the eighth charter member of the newly formed Chamber of Commerce of the United States in 1908. This grassroots leadership has not only helped to propel the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the prominent place it holds today as one of the top voices for the business industry, but also to place the York Chamber among the top 10 percent of chambers nationwide.

Despite a few changes in name and location, the York County Chamber of Commerce has remained the guiding force for local businesses for 100 years. That is why we should take the time to recognize this important milestone in the history of York County and its business community. Without their efforts, York County would not have achieved the level of prosperity we enjoy today. I am pleased to associate myself with this important organization and join them as they celebrate their centennial.

IMPROVING MEDICARE QUALITY-SAVING MEDICARE LIVES: SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2726

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the AARP Public Policy Institute issued a paper in December of 1996 by Dr. David Nash, entitled "Reforming Medicare: Strategies for Higher Quality, Lower Cost Care." It is an excellent paper on a number of ways to improve and extend the life of Medicare.

One proposal in Dr. Nash's paper is the "centers of excellence" concept, in which Medicare can contract with certain hospitals to provide a high volume of complicated procedures in exchange for a lower global payment. The results of Medicare's "demonstrations" of this concept shows that Medicare can save money while increasing quality for beneficiaries.

Following is Dr. Nash's discussions of the Heart Bypass Center Demonstration. The Administration had proposed legislation in the FY 97 Budget Reconciliation bill to implement this type of proposal nationwide. The House passed the proposal, but it was dropped in Conference. I hope that Congress will revisit this issue in 1998 and enact this concept.

It is not just a matter of dollars—it is a matter of lives.

Medicare, like most private insurance, has historically paid hospitals and doctors separately. Since 1983 with the introduction of the Prospective Payment System (PPS), Medicare has paid hospitals a fixed price for most care based on the patient's diagnosis. Doctors, whose medical decisions still affect nearly 80 percent of hospital costs, continue to be reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis that rewards them for doing more, not less.

The Medicare participating Heart Bypass Center Demonstration project is an experimental project implemented by Medicare in early 1992. Two primary events drove the planning for this important demonstration project: namely, the results of numerous studies showing a strong correlation between relatively higher volume, lower cost, and better outcomes in open heart surgery services, and unsolicited proposals from individual hospitals willing to provide coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) services for a fixed price.

This demonstration project was implemented to answer four basic questions: 1) Is it possible to establish a managed care system with Medicare Part A and Part B payments combined, including all pass throughs for capital, medical education, etc., and pay a single fee to the hospital for treating patients? 2) Would it be possible to decrease the Medicare program's expenditures on CABG surgery while maintaining or improving quality? 3) What is the true relationship between volume and quality in CABG surgery, and can hospital procedure volume be increased without decreasing the level of appropriateness? and 4) What is involved at a hospital operational level—can such a program be sustained over a period of time without draining financial resources and dragging the organization down?

Preliminary results evaluating the Medicare participating Heart Bypass Center Demonstration project, I believe, strongly support its immediate national expansion to appropriately realign the incentives between hospitals and their physicians. By creating a strong financial incentive to be more cost effective in their use of resources, hospitals and doctors will be able to implement the tools of continuous quality improvement, practice guidelines, critical pathways, and the nonpunitive feedback of information about performance. In a word, they will utilize many of the tools mentioned throughout the body of this report to improve quality and lower costs.

For example, the seven experimental heart surgery site institutions have reported numerous operational changes resulting in lower costs and improved quality as a result of the HCFA demonstration project. Quick transfers out of intensive care, shorter patient stays after surgery, fewer laboratory and radiology tests, and the use of care management and critical pathways, are some of the cost cutting measures being employed at each of the participating institutions. Expensive consultations with other physicians were also targets for cost saving. Participating institutions report a nearly 20 percent decrease in the use of consultation with no demonstrable changes in overall case outcomes. At four demonstration sites, doctors and administrators together are challenging long-standing patterns of care and scrutinizing the use of everything from $5 sutures to intensive care unit beds at $800 per day. At St. Joseph's Hospital, in Atlanta, Georgia, neurologists were charging between $364 and $1,676 for a neurologic consultation before the program began; now the hospital pays them a flat rate of $371. In the post-operative period, physicians are removing particular chest drainage tubes in certain patients within 24 hours rather than waiting the customary 48 hours, a strategy that even may foster quicker healing. Physicians describe the demonstration project as making them rethink each step along the patient care continuum. If each step is not supportable on a scientific basis, and is not in the patient's best interest, it is removed, and, as a result, costs are reduced.

Of course, many managed care organizations and some specialty practices have often charged a global fee for procedures or for a specified time period of care such as one calendar year. A growing number of managed care companies have negotiated special package price deals for expensive or high-tech procedures including organ transplantation, maternity care, and cancer care. The Medicare program should proceed quickly with preliminary plans to expand the participating Heart Bypass Center Demonstration project and begin a "National Centers of Excellence" program on other high-cost, high-volume procedures. The literature is clear that practice makes perfect and an expansion of this program, which would realign incentives, reduce costs, and inevitably improve quality, ought to be implemented quickly.

Finally, consideration should be given to expanding the current prospective payment system to include outpatient care. Studies ought to be undertaken to link inpatient and

outpatient claims for particular procedures and particular diagnoses such as congestive heart failure, pneumonia, diabetes and other high-cost, chronic illnesses. With the availability of improved outpatient case mix systems, HCFA has an opportunity to provide national leadership and use its evaluative capacity to realign incentives between doctors and hospitals.

RETIREMENT OF POLICE CHIEF RAY WROBLEWSKI

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to pay tribute to one of the many fine law enforcement officers from the Eleventh District of Illinois. After 32 years of service to the community and local law enforcement, Beecher, Illinois Police Chief Ray Wroblewski has decided to retire from the force.

Thirty two years ago Chief Wroblewski started his career in law enforcement as a deputy in the Will County Sheriff's Office. After serving with the sheriff's office for over a year, Ray joined the Crete Police Department and served the citizens of Crete, Illinois as a patrolman for twelve years before moving on to the Beecher Police Department. Starting out as a patrolman in Beecher, Ray worked his way through the ranks to the position of Chief, where he helped make the Beecher Police Department one of the best law enforcement agencies in Illinois.

During his twenty years of service in Beecher, Chief Wroblewski implemented a number of new programs and techniques that made the streets safer for his fellow officers and the residents of Beecher. Chief Wroblewski ushered in a new age of technology at the Beecher Police Department with the installation of onboard computers in the Village patrol cars, while, returning the force to a Community Oriented Police Department that works side by side with local residents. Chief Wroblewski was also instrumental in the formation of the department's new bike patrol, which will further the goals of the community policing program.

Mr. Speaker, while Chief Wroblewski would say little has changed in Beecher over the last twenty years, I think all of the citizens of Beecher would agree that their community has changed, and for the better, thanks to the efforts and hard work of Chief Wroblewski. Respected by law enforcement officers throughout the State of Illinois, Chief Wroblewski's leadership, caring and ingenuity will be missed by the people of Beecher and the officers of the Beecher Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Wroblewski chose a career in law enforcement because he enjoyed helping people, and throughout his 32 years of service he did just that. I know I speak for all of my colleagues and the folks back home in Beecher when I say, thank you Chief Wroblewski for all your years of service, and best wishes in your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL AARON BANK

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Colonel Aaron Bank on his birthday. Colonel Bank is one of our great military leaders and one of our great Americans.

Colonel Bank helped found, organize and train the United States Army's elite Special Forces group which is known today as the Green Berets. He was hand-picked to organize and develop the Army's Special Forces division because of his depth of knowledge and experience in unconventional warfare.

Colonel Bank served his country through several wars. In 1942 he was recruited for the newly-formed Office of Strategic Services (OSS). In 1944, he parachuted as part of a three man team into occupied France to promote resistance there. While in France he sabotaged the Germans' efforts by blowing up railroad lines, bridges and electric networks. He gathered resistance fighters which had increased to 3,000 and turned back the Germans in a series of fire fights.

At the end of World War II, Colonel Bank was sent to train Vietnamese troops. In an extraordinary feat, Bank parachuted into Laos to search for missing prisoners of war. After serving in Vietnam he was sent to Europe again and assigned to Army counterintelligence to catch Soviet bloc agents. By 1952 he was formally designated commander of the 10th Special Forces Group, the Green Berets.

Throughout his career Colonel Bank has demonstrated his keen intelligence, his compassion and his patriotism. He has engendered the utmost respect for his fellow mankind. His devotion and love of country form the foundation upon which he has built his beliefs.

Colonel Bank was a hero yesterday and is a hero today. His bravery, his devotion to freedom and his love for his country fill us with pride and admiration. Happy birthday and best wishes!

THE EQUITABLE CHILD CARE RESOLUTION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Equitable Child Care Resolution. The purpose of this concurrent resolution is two fold. First, to point out that 70% of families with preschool children do not pay for child care. Second, that any quality child care proposal should also provide financial relief to families where there is an at-home parent.

Many of the child care proposals that are garnering attention merely expand commercial child care and do not also address the needs of the vast majority (70%) of families who struggle to provide child care at home or in the home of a close relative or neighbor.

The 70% of families who come up with creative solutions for their child care needs should not be ignored. Many of these families sacrifice a full-time income. We should also focus on providing them with financial relief.

As we debate the merits and problems of various child care proposals, this resolution will serve to remind us that any quality child care initiative should provide assistance to parents regardless of how those parents choose to care for their children, be it by an at-home parent, grandmother, uncle, close neighbor, or child care enter. No child care proposal that discriminates against families based on their particular choice of child care should be actively considered.

I hope my colleagues will join me in making sure that at-home parents will not be forgotten in the child care debate. And, I urge my colleagues to not forget the 70% of American families who provide child care in the home, by supporting the Equitable Child Care Resolution.

AHCPR'S STUDY SUPPORTS PETE STARK'S BILL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 2726 which directs the Secretary to contract with certain hospitals for the provision of certain surgical procedures and related services under the Medicare Program. The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research's (AHCPR) October 1997 article, "Study Reaffirms Link Between Angioplasty Outcomes and Hospital and Physician Experience," adds to the list of reasons why the bill should become law.

The article states that: "In the largest study of its kind to date, researchers have once again found that elderly patients undergoing coronary angioplasty are well advised to have the procedure done in hospitals that perform 200 or more angioplasties each year and by physicians who perform 75 or more angioplasties each year. These patients suffer fewer complications and deaths than similar patients who undergo angioplasties at hospitals and physicians who perform the procedure less often."

The article confirms that Medicare contracting with certain high volume, high quality hospitals will save money and deliver better health care. One could say it is a two-for-one: saves money while improving quality.

Mr. Speaker, the sooner we pass H.R. 2726, the sooner we start saving lives and saving dollars.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE: CALUMET CITY LODGE NO. 1

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of the Fraternal Order of Police, Calumet City Lodge No.

1. This lodge was founded on November 29th, 1937 and on Tuesday, January 13th 1998 they celebrated their 60th Anniversary.

The Calumet City Lodge was the first Lodge organized in Illinois. Sixty years ago, there were 10 members. Today this organization boasts 78 members on active duty and 35 members who have retired from the police force. In fact, the oldest active member in the country of the Fraternal Order of Police organization, George Perniciaro, is a member of the Calumet City Lodge.

FOP Calumet City Lodge No. 1 has been dedicated to the community it serves in many ways. They sponsor a food and toy program for needy families in Calumet City during the holidays each year. They sponsor several Little League and Civic League Baseball teams. The Calumet City Lodge makes a donation each year to the Easter Seals Foundation, the national charity for the Fraternal Order of Police. They make donations to the Good Hope School, a trade school for developmentally disabled children.

As is tradition with many police organizations, the Calumet City FOP takes care of their own. When a police officer is killed in the line of duty, the Lodge provides for the needs of their surviving family. Donations are also made to the state and national Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) program.

Also on January 13, 1998, the Fraternal Order of Police, Calumet City Lodge No. 1 honored those who have recently retired from the police. Kelly Matthews served the residents of Calumet City for 24 years from 1973 to 1997. Terrence McDermott served the residents of Calumet City for 26 years from 1971 to 1997. We thank these two dedicated public servants for their fearless service to this community.

Finally, on January 13, 1997 the Fraternal Order of Police, Calumet City Lodge No. 1 installed new officers to preside over this organization. We thank the retiring officers for their service and call upon the new directors to preserve the good name of this organization whose motto is "We serve with Pride."

IN HONOR OF THELMA GAMMELL ON HER 102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a wonderful person and a great American, on her 102nd birthday—Thelma Gammell.

Thelma is a joy to know. Perky, humorous, and filled with the spirit of life. She was born in Miller, South Dakota, and on October 9, 1895. Life was very different then. The United States, itself, was just over 100 years old. Her ancestors had migrated from Wales in 1776, during the Revolutionary War.

Life was very difficult and often hard. Thelma, however, grew up in a family that had good values. They worked hard and they lived the best they could with what they had. Her childhood was filled with horseback riding, dolls and "kitten playmates." The winters on the prairie were long and cold, but Thelma enjoyed playing in the snowdrifts with her sister.

In 1912 Thelma met with her husband, John Gammell. They lived in several states including North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska. They had a son and a daughter who were both born in Wyoming.

In 1937 the Gammells moved to Laguna Beach, California, where John worked as a carpenter and Thelma worked as a pottery designer. After retirement, the Gammells traveled, visiting friends in the Midwest. After her husband passed away in 1967, Thelma became active as a volunteer for the Santa Ana Senior Center and has continued her dedicated service for over 12 years.

Surely her secret to a long life must be her warm and outgoing personality and her joy of life. For Thelma Gammell life had been filled with many wonderful memories. All who know Thelma have been charmed by her presence. Happy birthday and best wishes for a wonderful year.

PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE WORKPLACE

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce H.R. 2948, legislation that restores real protections to the religious convictions of men and women in the workplace. The Workplace Religious Freedom Act (WRFA) would amend Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to require employers to make reasonable accommodation for an employee's religious observance or practice unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on the employer. Currently, the courts interpret Title VII to require reasonable accommodation of religious practices only where an employer would not "bear more than a de minimis cost."

This bill is a companion to S. 1124, which was introduced by Senators JOHN KERRY (D-MA) and DAN COATS (R-IN), with an ideologically diverse group of cosponsors.

The version of the WRFA that I introduce today is intended to reflect my concern with the instances of employers unreasonably refusing to accommodate the religious needs of workers. This is not a common problem, but it is still a serious one. This bill is intended as a starting point, and I do not necessarily endorse all of its provisions. I wish to ensure that businesses are not unduly burdened, while ensuring that workers' rights are amply protected. I hope my introduction of this bill will foster a dialogue between the business and religious communities that achieves a bill acceptable to all.

The bill is endorsed by a wide range of organizations including: American Jewish Committee, Baptist Joint Committee, Christian Legal Society, United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), Southern Baptist Convention, Traditional Values Coalition, Seventh-day Adventists, National Association of Evangelicals, National Council of the Churches of Christ, National Sikh Center, and Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. A complete list of the Coalition For Religious Freedom In The Workplace is attached for the record.

I look forward to a healthy debate over this legislation and its ultimate passage in a form which fairly balances the legitimate needs of both employees and employers.

COALITION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE WORKPLACE

Agudath Israel of America; American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress; Americans for Democratic Action; Anti-Defamation League; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Center for Jewish and Christian Values; Central Conference of American Rabbis; Christian Legal Society; Church of Scientology International; Council on Religious Freedom; General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Guru Gobind Singh Foundation; Hadassah-WZOA; International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists; and Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

National Association of Evangelicals; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; National Council of Jewish Women; National Jewish Coalition; National Jewish Coalition; National Jewish Democratic Council; National Sikh Center; North American Council for Muslim Women; People for the American Way; Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office; Rabbinical Council of America; Southern Baptist Convention Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; Traditional Values Coalition; Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations; United Church of Christ Office for Church in Society; United Methodist Church General Board on Church and Society; and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

WHY PHYSICIAN REFERRAL LAWS ARE IMPORTANT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the January 9th *Federal Register* contains the regulations implementing the 1993 Physician Referral laws, designed to reduce or eliminate the incentives for doctors to over-refer patients to services in which the doctor has a financial relationship.

Study after study after study has shown that when doctors have such a financial relationship, they tend to order more services and more expensive services. The Physician Referral laws try to stop this form of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Members may hear complaints about the law and regulations from some physicians. Following is a portion of an *amicus* brief filed in the case of *Thompson* v. *Columbia/HCA* December 12, 1996 by three of America's most distinguished and illustrious physicians—Dr. Arnold Relman, Dr. C. Everett Koop, and the late Dr. James S. Todd, former Executive Vice President of the American Medical Association. The *amicus* explains eloquently why this law is needed to help ensure the trust of the American people in their physician community.

I hope Members will keep in mind the important ethical and moral issues described by these three outstanding doctors.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Amicus, Arnold S. Relman, M.D., is Professor Emeritus of Medicine and of Social Medicine at the Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dr. Relman is also the Editor in Chief Emeritus of the New England Journal of Medicine, the official organ of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which has been published continuously since 1812. For more than fifteen years, Dr. Relman has written extensively on the ethical, social, and practical implications of physician self-referral, compensation, and ownership arrangements of the type described in the present Complaint.

Amicus, C. Everett Koop, M.D., served as the United States Surgeon General under Presidents Reagan and Bush from 1981 to 1989. After the completion of his government service, General Koop has maintained an active role in the national debate on healthcare policies, priorities, and perspectives.

Amicus, James S. Todd, M.D., recently retired as Executive Vice President, American Medical Association.

Doctors Relman, Koop, and Todd have no personal financial interest in this litigation. Their desire to participate as *amici curiae* arises instead from their deeply felt concern for the implications that physician self-referral and compensation arrangements may have on the delivery of medical services to the American people and the ethical issues arising from those arrangements. *Amici* steadfastly maintain that a physician's economic self interest must remain subordinate to his or her primary, unalloyed obligation as a patient's trusted advisor, agent, and healer to place the patient's interests above all others.

The self-referral and compensation arrangements at issue in this case threaten to erode traditional medical ethics, undermine public trust, and create irreconcilable conflicts of interest at a time when the public at large will be ill-served thereby. They offer a unique perspective on the consequences to physicians, their patients, and the system of healthcare in this country that are threatened by self-referral and compensation arrangements such as those described in this suit.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

The fundamental ethical precept, upon which the system of medical practice has been founded, is that the patient's interests must take precedence over all other considerations, and certainly, over any financial or other personal interests of the patient's physician. Patients in need of medical care turn to their physicians to act as their agent in deciding what is needed. The patient must trust and depend upon the physician to serve only the patient's interest above all others.

The self-referral and physician compensation arrangements described in the United States' Complaint threaten to undermine this fundamental principle of medical ethics. Doctors who associate themselves with healthcare corporations as employees, contractors, or limited partners with financial ties to healthcare businesses have an unavoidable conflict of interest. The type of business arrangements described in the Complaint threaten to obscure the separation between business and professional aims. No longer are physicians the trustees solely for their patients' interests; they become in addition agents for a corporate enterprise which regards patients as customers. Economic incentives to withhold services, to overuse them, or to choose particular medical products are inconsistent with the duty of the physician to act as an unselfish trustee and agent for the patient.

Both the Medicare Anti-Fraud and Abuse Act and the Stark Acts are bulwarks against the continued erosion of the physician's fiduciary obligation in the face of increasing economic temptation. Physicians cannot ethically serve in the capacity of their patients' fiduciary or representative in selecting services offered by the healthcare industry, where they also have the type of financial interests in that industry as described in the United States' Complaint.

Self-referral has a demonstrable practical dimension beyond its ethical aspects. A growing body of evidence reveals that self-referral often leads to the overuse of services and excessive costs. Statistical studies buttress the commonsense conclusion that self-referral and compensation arrangements can result in the inappropriate utilization of services for the physician's economic benefit. To the extent that those services are submitted and paid under Medicare, they are also to the United States' detriment.

I. SELF-REFERRAL UNDERMINES THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF MEDICAL ETHICS

Amici do not profess to have personal knowledge of the allegations in the instant complaint describing a variety of financial relationships between defendants below and the physicians, who have allegedly accepted the benefits of those arrangements. Those allegations are accepted as true, in the particular procedural context of this appeal. The Complaint alleges that, to induce referrals of Medicare and other patients, physicians, in a position to make referrals to the defendant healthcare providers were:

(a) offered a preferential opportunity not available to the general public to obtain equity interests in defendants' healthcare operations;

(b) offered loans with which to finance their capital investments in those equity interests;

(c) paid money, under the guise of "consultation fees"or similar payments to guarantee the physicians' capital investment in those equity interests on a risk-free basis;

(d) paid "consultation fees", "rent" or other monies to induce physicians to practice and refer patients to particular hospitals or facilities;

(e) given payments based on the amount of business provided by the physician;

(f) provided free or reduced rate rents for office space;

(g) provided free or reduced-rate vacations, hunting trips, fishing trips, or, other similar recreational opportunities;

(h) provided with free or reduced-cost opportunities for additional medical training;

(i) provided income guarantees; and

(j) granted preferred superior or exclusive rights to perform procedures in particular fields of practice.

This conduct is alleged to have violated both the Medicare Anti-Fraud and Abuse Act and the self-referral statutes known as the Stark Act. The prohibitions of the Stark Act are rather clear: where a physician has a statutorily defined investment or ownership interest in, or a compensation arrangement with, an entity, the physician may not refer Medicare patients to that entity, which in turn may not present or receive payment for any Medicare claims for patients so referred.

The policies and values implicated by the type of conduct prohibited under the Stark Act are revealed in the very title of the law as originally submitted by Representative Fortney "Pete" Stark: the House bill was entitled the "Ethics In Patient Referrals Act." Representative Stark chose his title well, for fundamental principles of medical ethics are unavoidably implicated by self-referral and remuneration arrangements that can tempt physicians to consider their own income above their patients' medical needs and to tap third-party payors (including the government) for excessive or unnecessary costs.

A. Patient Loyalty is the Most Fundamental Ethical Obligation

From its earliest origins, the profession of medicine has steadfastly held that physicians' responsibility to their patients takes precedence over their own economic interests. Thus the oath of Hippocrates enjoins physicians to serve only "for the benefit of sick. . . ." In modern times this theme has figured prominently in many medical codes of ethics. The international code of the World Medical Organization, for example, says that "a doctor must practice his profession uninfluenced by motives of profit." The American Medical Association declared in 1957, in its newly revised Principles of Medical Ethics, that "the principal objective of the medical profession is to render service to humanity." It went on to say, "in the practice of medicine a physician should limit the source of his professional income to medical services actually rendered by him, or under his supervision, to his patients."

The practice of medicine is based on this special relation between the doctor and patient. In this way, medical care is different from ordinary commercial transactions. Patients may choose their doctors, their hospitals, or the kind of insurance coverage they want, but when they need medical care, the physician acts as their agent in deciding what is needed. The patient, in turn, is virtually totally dependent upon the physician's decision, and so must trust the physician to do the right thing.

This trust, which physicians are sworn to honor, is the essence of the relationship between doctor and patient. The patient's interest takes precedence over all other considerations, and certainly, over any financial or other personal interests of the physician. The American Medical Association has been very firm and explicit on this last point. The 1981 edition of the *Opinions and Reports* of the Judicial Council of the AMA unambiguously says: "under no circumstances may the physician place his own financial interest above the welfare of his patient. The prime objective of the medical profession is to render service to humanity. Reward or financial gain is a subordinate consideration."

Physicians are parties to a social contract, not merely a business contract. Physicians are not vendors, and are not merely free economic agents in a free market. Society has given physicians a licensed monopoly to practice their profession protected in large part against competition from other would-be dispensers of health services. Physicians enjoy independence and the authority to regulate themselves and set their own standards. Much of their professional training is subsidized. Virtually all the information and technology they need to practice their profession has been produced at public expense. Those physicians who practice in hospitals are given without charge the essential facilities and instruments they need to take care of their patients. Most of all, physicians have the priceless privilege of enjoying their patients' trust and playing a critical part in their lives when they most need help. All this physicians are given in exchange for the commitment to serve their patients' interests first of all and to do the very best they can.

B. Economic Pressures Arising From the Transformation of the Medical Practice Environment

Although the relation between doctor and patient is not in essence a market place transaction, it certainly can be influenced by economic considerations and by the financial and organizational arrangements through which medical care is provided. Until recently, the dominant arrangement was fee-for-service sole or small partnership private practice.

Until the past decade or two, this system for physician compensation has enjoyed the general confidence and support of the American public. There were several reasons for this. First, the behavior of most doctors was influenced by the ethical code of organized medicine, which clearly said that the whole system was based on the doctor's commitment to the patient's interests. Moreover, it was unethical for the doctor to do anything that was unnecessary. Until recently, there were few opportunities for physicians to do anything that was unnecessary. Until 40 or 50 years ago, the great majority of doctors in practice in this country were primary care givers, who had only a modest and inexpensive array of procedures and remedies. There was little for the physician to do beyond examining, counseling, and comforting. When specialists were used, the referrals usually came from the primary care physician, so self-referral by specialists was not a problem. Finally, until recently, doctors had more patients than they could handle. They had no incentive to do more than was necessary for any patient because there were plenty of patients available and much work to do. As long as physicians were in relatively short supply, there was no pressure on them to offer their patients more than essential services.

Over the past fifty years, the system of medical practice in this country has irrevocably changed, putting new stresses on the previously simple satisfactory relationship between doctor and patient. One of the first and most important developments was the rise of specialism with a concomitant increase in the relative and absolute number of specialists. This, in turn, has led to the fragmentation of medical care and to less personal commitment by physicians to patients. We have changed from a system that had over 70% primary care physicians to one that has nearly 70% specialists.

Another major force that has changed the nature of the doctor-patient relation is the explosive development of medical technology. There are now a vastly increased number of things that doctors can do for patients—many more tests, many more diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and many more identifiable, billable items to be reimbursed by the third-party payors. The increase in specialization and technological sophistication has itself raised the price of services and made the economic rewards of medicine far greater than before. With third-party payors, either medical insurers or the government, available to pay the bills, physicians have powerful economic incentives to recruit patients and provide expensive services. The multitude of tests and procedures now available provide lucrative opportunities for extra income, which in turn inevitably encourages an entrepreneurial approach to medical practice and overuse of services.

Another major factor in the transformation of the system has been the appearance of investor-owned healthcare businesses. Attracted by opportunities for profit resulting from the expansion of private and public health insurance, these new businesses (which have been called the "medical-industrial complex") have built and operated chains of hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, diagnostic laboratories, and many other kinds of health facilities. They prospered by encouraging physicians to use their facilities during an era when almost all medical services were paid for on a fee-for-service basis. This is still largely true for physicians' services under Medicare.

It must therefore be recognized that healthcare is becoming a business. Pressures from insurers and third-party payors for containment of costs, the growing presence of investor-owned healthcare corporations, and competition for market share among the country's overbuilt and underused hospitals are transforming the American healthcare system into an industry. In that environment, many doctors have associated themselves with healthcare corporations as employees, contractors, and limited partners.

C. Self-Referral Undermines The Physician's Fiduciary Responsibilities

Whether investors, employees, contractors, or limited partners, doctors with financial ties to healthcare businesses have a conflict of interest. And therein lies the ethical quandary, which Representative Stark sought to address in the Ethics in Patient Referrals Act: economic imperatives may weaken what should be a strong fiduciary relationship between doctor and patient. A physician cannot easily serve his patients as trusted counselor and agent when he has economic ties to profit-seeking businesses that regard those patients as customers. In entering into these and similar business arrangements, physicians are trading on their patients' trust. The kind and character of financial arrangements, incentives, and business deals described in the present Complaint clearly serve the economic interests of physicians and owners. Whether they also serve the best interests of patients is not so clear. Whether they violate the Medicare Anti-Fraud and Abuse Act or the Stark Act prohibitions against payment of remuneration for the referral of Medicare or Medicaid patients or for the purchase of supplies for these patients is beyond the purview of this brief; however, at a minimum these legal concerns imply that the government recognizes the potential risk to the public interest when physicians make deals with businesses.

The type of business arrangements described in the Complaint take physicians into uncharted waters, where conflicts of interest abound and the separation between business and professional aims is obscured. No longer are physicians the trustees solely for their patients' interests; they become in addition agents for a corporate enterprise which regards patients as customers. Economic incentives to withhold services, to overuse them, or to choose particular medical products are inconsistent with the duty of the physician to act as an unselfish trustee and agent for the patient.

The tension between economics and ethics has been reflected in the deliberations of the American Medical Association. In December, 1991, the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs of the AMA advised physicians to avoid self-referral, except where there is a demonstrated need in the community for the facility and alternative financing is not available. While acknowledging the mounting evidence of excessive costs and rates of use in jointly owned for-profit facilities, the Council emphasized its primary concern for the integrity of the profession. The following passage from the report expresses its essential message: "At the heart of the Council's view of this issue is its conviction that, however others may see the profession, physicians are not simply business people with high standards. Physicians are engaged in the special calling of healing, and, in that calling, they are the fiduciaries of their patients. They have different and higher duties than even the most ethical business person. * * * There are some activities involving their patients that physicians should avoid whether or not there is evidence of abuse."

This is, of course, the central point about fiduciary responsibility: people in important positions of trust should not put themselves in situations that inevitably raise questions about their motives and priorities, regardless of whether they actually behave in accordance with the trust. Even though physicians may believe they are doing what is best for the patient, there will still be the appearance of conflicting interests with a resulting erosion of public confidence in the physicians' motivation, a confidence that has unfortunately already been weakened by a growing public opinion that doctors are too interested in money and charge too much. Since trust is vital to good care, these public perceptions could lead to a deterioration in the quality of care as well as a change in the public's attitude toward the medical profession.

Both the Medicare Anti-Fraud and Abuse Act and the Stark Acts are bulwarks against the continued erosion of the physician's fiduciary obligation in the face of increasing economic temptation. The public gives doctors special advantages and privileges in exchange for their commitments to put the public's interests ahead of any personal economic gain. The involvement of practicing physicians accepting compensation for the referral of patients raises serious doubts about this commitment. Physicians should be fiduciaries or representatives for their patients in evaluating and selecting the services offered by the healthcare industry. They cannot ethically serve in that capacity where they also have the type of financial interests in that industry as described in the United States' Complaint.

II. SELF-REFERRAL LEADS TO OVERUSE OF SERVICES AND EXCESSIVE COST

Self-referral has a demonstrable practical dimension beyond its ethical aspects. A growing body of evidence reveals that when physicians are paid on a fee-for-service basis self-referral leads to the overuse of services and excessive costs. A 1992 study evaluated the effects of self-referral arrangements in radiation therapy facilities in Florida, where at least 40% of all practicing physicians were involved in some kind of self-referral. That study found that the frequency and costs of radiation therapy at such centers were 40% to 60% higher in Florida than in the rest of the United States, where only 7% of the facilities were joint ventures. Another 1992 study, using information collected by the Florida Healthcare Cost Containment Board, found that visits per patient were 39% to 45% higher in physical therapy centers owned by referring physicians and that such facilities had 30% to 40% higher revenues. The study also found that licensed therapists in non-physician owned centers spent about 60% more time per visit treating patients than those in physician-owned centers.

A California study in 1992 compared physicians who referred patients to facilities in which they had ownership interests to other physicians. Physician-owners were found to have referred patients for physical therapy

2.3 times as often as others. Of the MRI scans requested by physician owners, 38% were found to be medically unnecessary, as compared with 28% by other physicians. Two studies focusing on diagnostic imaging services identified the same patterns. Physicians who owned imaging systems were found to have used diagnostic imaging in the treatment of elderly patients significantly more often than other physicians while generating 1.6 to 6.2 times higher average imaging charges per session of medical care. An earlier study found that self-referring physicians generally used imaging examinations at least four times more often than other physicians, with the charges for self-referred imaging usually being higher. Earliest of all was the 1989 study conducted under the auspices of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, which found that Medicare patients of doctors who had financial interests in clinical laboratories received 45% more laboratory services than Medicare patients generally.

None of this evidence is particularly surprising; it merely confirms that when physicians are paid on a fee-for-service basis, the lure of economic gain is directly correlated to the use of medical services. At a minimum, then, self-referral adds to the cost of medical care; more ominously, it may increase patient risk and diminish quality of patient care. Both the individual interests of patients, and the wider interests of the tax paying public, are best served by stringent enforcement of the prohibitions against self-referral embodied in the Medicare Anti-Fraud and Abuse Act and the Stark laws.

III. CONCLUSION

Amici therefore submit this brief in support of reversal of the district court's judgment of dismissal.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN E. MOSS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a former member of this body, my mentor and predecessor in this House, The Honorable John E. Moss. As Congressman Moss is memorialized today in the city which be represented so well, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting his remarkable career in public service.

Throughout the twenty-six years he represented the Sacramento area in this House, he served with distinction as an effective and compassionate champion for his constituents. As a skillful legislator, he played a key role in shaping and passing some of this century's great legislative achievements, all the while keeping the interests of his district at the forefront of his concerns.

Born in the state of Utah in 1915, John Moss' family moved to Sacramento, California in 1923. There, he went to school and married Jean Kueny in 1935. The couple would have two daughters. After serving in the Second World War, Congressman Moss was a businessman, but he soon heard the call to serve in the public sector and he won a seat in the California State Assembly in 1948.

Just four years thereafter, at the age of thirty-three, John Emerson Moss was elected to the House of Representatives, a position he would fulfill admirably for the next twenty-six years. One of Congressman Moss' first orders of business was to persuade then-President Harry S. Truman to approve the construction of a dam along the American River at the town of Folsom, just east of Sacramento. In a sign of his political prowess, Congressman Moss was able to successfully lobby the White House to support this important project.

His other early achievements included winning federal support for the Sacramento Airport and the surrounding military bases. John Moss steadfastly represented and served as an advocate for a great cross-section of Californians living in Sacramento, regardless of party affiliation or political persuasion. Yet his commitment to the needs of his district never overwhelmed his core devotion to civil and human rights, and to truth in government.

From 1955 until 1966, John Moss devoted much of his time in this House to winning passage of the Freedom of Information Act. His crusade to create and enact a law which would allow for a more open, understanding, and responsible government was perhaps his greatest achievement in Congress and would earn him the title of "Father of the Freedom of Information Act."

By the early 1970s, he had risen to the leadership of the House, serving as high as deputy majority whip under both Congressmen Carl Albert and Hale Boggs. At this same time, as the Watergate saga began to unfold and the U.S. involvement in Vietnam wound down, John Moss served as one of the great consciences of the House, always calling for greater government accountability and responsiveness to the concerns of the people.

As his career concluded in 1979, Congressman Moss could look back and see a great string of legislative and political achievements: The 1970 Federal Clean Air Act, the creation of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and reform of the nation's anti-monopoly laws, to name but a few.

Mr. Speaker, since Congressman Moss' passing, tributes have come forth from President Bill Clinton, former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, and countless other prominent Americans and Sacramentans. His passion and drive in defending the First Amendment, advocating consumer and environmental protection, and looking after the needs of his Sacramento constituency has cemented his legacy as one of this century's great legislative leaders. On a personal note, as my friend and mentor is eulogized today, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in honoring this great and caring husband, father, and legislator.

RECOGNIZING THE CHANNAHON PARK DISTRICT

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Channahon Park District in Channahon, Illinois for winning the 1997 National Gold Medal Award. This award acknowledges excellence in parks and recreation administration for agencies serving populations of less than 20,000.

What makes this award special Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the judges for the National Gold Medal Award are park officials from throughout the nation who consider agency programs, quality of facilities, future planning and community involvement in selecting award winners. So as you can see Mr. Speaker, this is an award that is not only judged by peers in the field, but, by some of the most respected park administrators from around the country.

The Channahon Park District has had a proud history of community service over the last 25 years. Growing out of a volunteer effort of local residents, the Channahon Park District and it's staff are a national model for excellence in recreation, environment, and community programs.

The residents of Channahon and the entire Eleventh Congressional District have always enjoyed the fine programs and facilities maintained by Channahon Park District's award winning team. From board members and staff, right down to part time volunteers, the Channahon Park District team understands the meaning of community, and extends it's programs to every sector of the local population.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the hard work of the men and women of the Channahon Park District, and I know I speak for all of the residents of the Village of Channahon when I say congratulations on winning this award and job well done.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE SOUTH

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Steve South, the outgoing President of the National City Chamber of Commerce in National City, California, located in my Congressional District. Mr. South, the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of EDCO Disposal Corporation, a waste collection and recycling company, served as President of the National City Chamber Board of Directors during 1997.

During that year, his leadership led to many successful accomplishments and many "firsts" for the Chamber. The first New Member Orientations were established, and a new "Business Forum" section of the Chamber newsletter was implemented. His leadership also spearheaded new levels of membership in the Chamber. Corporate, student and friendship levels were established to broaden the scope of the Chamber's ability to recruit new members.

Also for the first time in Chamber history, an ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee was established to begin developing a vision for the Chamber of Commerce. The goals of this committee are to update the Chamber's mission and to plan the direction of the Chamber and the economic development of National City into the 21st Century.

Mr. South initiated a student and parent recognition program with the National School District. A campaign was also established to promote the positive assets of National City by developing a promotional media kit, "Good Attributes in National City: Community, People, Business and Schools." Mr. South also supported the building of coalitions with other community groups and initiated the Chamber's support of the National City Collaborative and the National City Boys and Girls Club. His commitment to a safer National City was demonstrated by his support of the establishment of the Senior Volunteer Patrol, a partnership between the City of National City and the Chamber of Commerce.

In these and many other ways, Steve South has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the residents of his city. His dedication is to be admired, and I am pleased to recognize his contributions to the entire community of National City with these remarks in the U.S. House of Representatives.

COMMENDING THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this year we will not only commemorate the month of February as American Heart Month, but we will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the American Heart Association as a national voluntary health agency.

Every 34 seconds, someone in our country dies of cardiovascular disease or stroke. Cardiovascular disease, the leading killer of Americans, claims as many lives as all other causes of death combined. The number of these deaths has drastically declined due to the hard work of the American Heart Association, over the last fifty years. With more than 4.2 million volunteers, the American Heart Association spends more than $100 million a year to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular disease and stroke through research, education, and community services.

The research supported by the AHA has helped to increase our knowledge of the effects of diet, exercise, smoking and drug therapies on heart disease and stroke. New surgical techniques, such as the use of artificial heart valves, have dramatically reduced the death rates of children suffering from congenital heart disease over the last forty years. The AHA has also helped to establish coronary care units in most of our nation's hospitals, thereby providing specially trained personal and electronic equipment to monitor and treat heart attack patients. The Nobel prize has been awarded three times to researchers funded by the American Heart Association.

The American Heart Association trains 6.4 million Americans a year in emergency training programs. The AHA also provides professional education; equipping physicians and nurses with information on a variety of topics, including how patients can control their blood cholesterol levels.

With 50% of American children overweight and 50% of adults not exercising regularly, the AHA's public education programs are vitally important. Programs such as providing heart health education materials for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, teaching employees about heart health at their places of work, and teaching people how to cook using AHA's dietary guidelines, provide Americans with potentially lifesaving skills and information.

The American Heart Association reaches seven million people a year with its message of cardiovascular health. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in commending the tireless efforts of the AHA over the last fifty years and in designating February as American Heart Month.

NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT 1997 OFFICER OF THE YEAR DETECTIVE JEROME BROWN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding example of honor and duty shown by the North Miami Police Department's 1997 Officer of the Year, Detective Jerome Brown. Chosen by a committee of his peers, he is a fitting choice.

Detective Brown was twice named Officer of the Month during 1997: once for his work in apprehending the armed robber of a local business; and once for the arrest of five offenders in an armed robbery. Detective Brown's reputation is for being tireless in pursuing suspects and clearing by arrest a high number of his cases.

Throughout his 27-year career, he has repeatedly been described by his superiors as enthusiastic, persistent, compassionate, and highly self-motivated. These traits have earned him the respect and admiration of his peers, which is the ultimate compliment in any field. Congratulations to Detective Brown for his commitment to his community and his work to keep our neighborhoods safe.

TRIBUTE TO MARY TSURUKO TSUKAMOTO

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an educator, activist, and leader of national prominence: Mary Tsuruko Tsukamoto. Mrs. Tsukamoto passed away on January 6, leaving a tremendous legacy as a teacher, activist, and hero to countless Americans. Today, in Sacramento, California, she will be fondly remembered at two separate memorial services.

The child of immigrants from Okinawa, Mary Tsuruko Dakuzaku was born in San Francisco in 1915. Her family moved to the Florin area just south of Sacramento in 1925. There, she attended segregated schools. By the beginning of World War II, she had married the man with whom she would spend the next six decades, Alfred Tsukamoto. In 1942, along with their five year old daughter, Marielle, the Tsukamotos were among the more than 10,000 Japanese Americans interned in government camps around the U.S.

After the end of World War II, the Tsukamotos returned to Northern California. Al took a job at the Sacramento Army Depot, while Mary began her vocation as a teacher in 1950. It was in her role as educator that Mary Tsukamoto first began to touch the lives of so many in the Sacramento area. Her unique ability to connect with young people became the trademark of her teaching career at four different elementary schools until her retirement in 1976.

But Mary's retirement from teaching in the Elk Grove, California School District was just the beginning of the most influential period of her life. Her family's forced internment during World War II had left a profound mark on her personal and political beliefs. Fueled by the injustice of the imprisonment of Japanese Americans, Mary launched a courageous crusade to right this national wrong.

In the 1980's Mary joined the fight in support of a national apology and reparations for the Japanese Americans interned during World War II. These efforts included testifying before a congressional committee about the lasting negative impact that the imprisonment had on Japanese Americans throughout our nation. Without her steadfast and vocal championship of this legislation, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, including an apology and reparations, would never have become law.

On a very personal note, Mary's friendship and support during this often difficult legislative battle was invaluable to my colleagues and I as we fought for the reparations bill. I will always value the unique perspective, encouragement, and dedication she offered throughout this important effort.

By the time President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law, Mary had become a nationally-recognized leader in preserving and promoting the Japanese American heritage. She helped create and plan an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution about the internment and she authored a book on the subject. Mary also launched an important effort to catalogue and preserve Japanese American artifacts, personal histories, and photographs with the creation of the Japanese American Archival Collection at California State University, Sacramento.

Her activism in these areas, and reputation as a national leader in the fight to provide restitution to the Japanese Americans who were forcibly relocated during the Second World War, brought her back into the classrooms of Sacramento area schools as a unique source of historical information for our community's students. In conjunction with the Florin Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, Mary set out to retell the glorious and sometimes painful history of Japanese Americans in the twentieth century U.S.

Yet Mary Tsukamoto's activist endeavors were not limited solely to the imprisonment issue. She also found time to lead Jan Ken Po Gakko, a group which preserves the Japanese

heritage in the United States. Her involvement in this organization enhanced her already remarkable pursuits in putting together lectures, creating displays, and writing about the internment of Japanese Americans.

By the early 1990's Mary Tsukamoto's achievements were gaining recognition throughout California. In 1992, a new elementary school was named after her in the Vintage Park area of South Sacramento. In May of 1997, she was named a "Notable Californian" by the California State Senate and State Capitol Museum, making her the second person to ever receive this high honor. Last September, she was presented with the California Asian Pacific Sesquicentennial Award for all of her accomplishments in the Asian/American community.

Mr. Speaker, as Mary Tsukamoto is eulogized today by her many friends and admirers, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary activist, teacher, and powerful leader. Her impact on our national heritage and the very fabric of who we are as a country will be felt for many generations to come. I salute her personal strength and determination in educating her fellow citizens, pursuing justice, and promoting the heritage of all Japanese Americans.

A CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the beginning of a year-long celebration of the centennial of Philippine independence. June 12, 1898 is the day the Philippines gained its independence from Spain—and June 12th is celebrated in the Philippines as Independence Day by order of President Diosdado Macapagal.

This year, in the Philippines and in the numerous Filipino-American communities in the United States, lengthy celebrations are being prepared that will occur throughout the entire year. In my hometown of San Diego, a civic parade showcasing Filipino culture is among the many events planned to commemorate this milestone.

Historians tell us that the Philippines was "discovered" in 1521 by Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan, who worked for Spain. In spite of a bloody battle between Filipino fighters and the invaders in which Magellan was killed, Spain colonized the Philippines and held power for nearly four hundred years.

In 1896, Filipinos mustered the courage to bond together to overthrow the Spanish colonialists. Filipino revolutionaries, led by General Emilio Aguinaldo, took to the streets in his hometown of Kawit, about 15 miles southwest of Manila, and proclaimed an end to Spanish rule. The open resistance of the imperial power of Spain led to the declaration of independence two years later on June 12, 1898 and with it the birth of Asia's first independent nation.

But in real terms, just as Spain slipped out, came the colonizing power of the United States. Spain "ceded" the Philippines to the United States, blatantly ignoring the Filipinos' own proclamation of freedom. So, practically, the century of independence is somewhat of an illusion, for the Philippines was a territory and then a commonwealth of the United States until July 4, 1946.

However, Independence Day is celebrated for good reason on June 12th, because the victory in 1898 symbolizes to the Filipino people the triumph of political will and physical endurance by Filipinos against foreign control. Today, Filipinos are free and they have proven their quest for freedom in countless battles—most recently as part of the American Army in World War II.

Filipino soldiers were drafted into the Armed Forces by President Franklin D. Roosevelt—and promised full benefits as American veterans. But these benefits were rescinded by the 79th Congress in 1946. Congressman Ben Gilman and I have now introduced the Filipino Veterans Equity Act (H.R. 836) which would restore the benefits promised when these soldiers were drafted into service by the President of the United States and fought side-by-side with soldiers from the American mainland against a common enemy.

Over 175 of our colleagues have co-sponsored H.R. 836, in support of these brave veterans. A most appropriate way to commemorate this centennial year of Philippine independence is to pass H.R. 836 and restore honor and equity to the Filipino veterans of World War II!

As Congressman of the Congressional district which includes more Filipino-American residents than any other except for Hawaii, I am very honored to have been chosen as their representative in Congress. I look forward to participating in the 1998 celebrations commemorating their Independence Day and the spirit, resourcefulness, warmth, and compassion of the people of the Philippines and of Filipino-Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE FRANCISCO DUENAS PEREZ

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam lost a very valuable member of its community on December 22, 1997. Mr. Francisco Duenas Perez, a farmer, businessman, government administrator, and legislator was called to his eternal rest at the age of 84. The late Francisco Perez worked early on in life at the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Yards & Docks. He graduated from Guam Evening High School and in 1984 received an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the University of Guam.

Frank Perez accomplished many things during his lifetime. He was the first Chamorro farmer to successfully incubate imported fertilized eggs from the United States and sell locally produced eggs to stores throughout Guam. In 1983, he was commissioned as a captain in the Guam Militia. During the World War II occupation of Guam he risked his life by secretly operating a radio to rescue two American escapees. He was named administrator for the Agricultural Department under the Bureau of Naval Intelligence in 1944 and later went on to begin a long and distinguished career in the Guam Legislature. He is also known as the "father" of the Guam Economic Development Authority, having formulated the concept of developing a government agency to help promote and attract new businesses to Guam. He introduced the idea of tax breaks, known as qualifying certificates, as a valuable economic stimulus. In 1947, he cofounded the Pacific Construction Company. He served as its president until 1951, when he founded what is now known as Perez Bros. Inc., a construction company and the island's first private subdivision. In addition, he was a cofounder of the Guam Contractors Association in 1960 and contributed to that organization's work with economic development activities on Guam.

Frank Perez was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the success of Guam's economy by being elected to the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Business Hall of Fame in 1995. He was one of Guam's outstanding leaders whose experiences during World War II shaped several generations. His dignity, his selfless service, his commitment to family and to Guam serve as reminders of the qualities which our island needs. His passing is a great loss and his presence will be missed.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences and join his widow, Mrs. Carmen Camacho Duenas Perez, and their children and spouses namely: Mr. Frank and Mrs. Christina Perez, Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Donna Perez, Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Ernestina Perez, Mr. George and Mrs. Tressie Perez, Mr. Thomas Perez and Ms. Karen Kasperbauer, Mr. John and Mrs. Patricia Perez, Ms. Mary Perez, Dr. Sulpicio and Mrs. Carmen Soriano, and Ms. Margarita Perez, along with their 29 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, in mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and an invaluable citizen who dedicated his life for the people of Guam. Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Tun Francisco.

INTERNATIONAL PAPER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE AT HUDSON RIVER MILL

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very special event taking place on January 28, 1998 in Corinth, New York, located in my congressional district. On that day, the employees of International Paper will launch a year long celebration of the company's Centennial Anniversary at its Hudson River mill. This location is particularly fitting because the Hudson River mill is the oldest operating mill in International Paper's worldwide mill system. The facility was built in 1869 by one of the first manufacturers of paper using wood fiber, then joined with 17 other mills in 1898 to form International Paper, the nation's largest producer of newsprint at that time.

Today, International Paper is the world's largest forest products company, with operations in 31 countries employing more than 85,000 people. Its many products include printing papers, packaging, and forest products, and it continues to manage more than 6 million acres of forest land nationwide.

In honor of the 100 year anniversary, International Paper Chairman John Dillon is hosting a special ceremony at the Hudson River mill, featuring a long list of distinguished guests which include Governor George Pataki. The most important people at this event, however, will be the many generations of dedicated employees who, by building lasting relationships with the local communities, have made International Paper an outstanding corporate citizen.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the more than 600 men and women who work at the Hudson River mill, both for the history they celebrate this year and for the tremendous contributions they continue to make today. One good example of these activities is the new de-inking facility which allows the mill to produce high-quality recycled and virgin grades of coated publication paper.

One individual whom I would like to particularly recognize is Alice Boisvaert, a retiree from International Paper's Hudson River mill, who will be honored at the January 28th celebration. Alice, now 95, worked in the mill during the 1940's, when one of her wartime duties was to paint the mill's windows black in accordance with civil defense air-raid regulations. Alice's grandson, Jim, as well as his father, later worked at the Hudson River mill. Among Jim's initial tasks was scraping that black paint off of the windows.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Alice, her family, and the rest of the International Paper family on a century of service and commitment to their communities. I ask that all Members join me in rising to thank these individuals for their civic dedication, technological contributions, and environmental stewardship over the last hundred years. May the next hundred be even better than the first!

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY CITIZENRY OF JIMMY TOUSSAINT AND ELI BINDER

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding example of honesty and civic responsibility demonstrated by two young men from my district, Mr. Jimmy Toussaint and Mr. Eli Binder.

While walking through their neighborhood, Jimmy, who is eleven years old, and Eli, who is twelve, noticed that a neighbor, having left in a rush, neglected to close and lock the front door to his home.

They could have kept on walking, but they felt a responsibility to the welfare of their neighbor. After knocking but receiving no response, Jimmy and Eli sought out the assistance of an adult Citizens on Patrol volunteer and informed him that the homeowner had neglected to secure his home. The volunteer locked the door and notified the grateful homeowner, Mr. Bruce Hamerstrom.

These young people have demonstrated an important part of what makes a community: neighbors looking after neighbors. I congratulate Jimmy and Eli for their good sense and judgement. I know that their parents must be proud of them, as are we all.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L. MAYBERRY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most respected and effective labor leaders, Mr. Richard L. Mayberry. This evening, Mr. Mayberry's many friends and colleagues will commemorate the conclusion of his tenure as an officer with the Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522.

"Dick" Mayberry has been affiliated with the Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 for 26 years. He has served as an Area Director, Vice President, and, for the past twelve years, he has held the post of President.

A native of Sacramento, California, Dick Mayberry is a veteran of the United States Army and the father of two. He joined the Sacramento Fire Department in 1964 after serving one year as a correctional officer.

Mr. Mayberry's leadership abilities allowed him to achieve the rank of Apparatus Operator in 1975, three years after he first became an officer in the Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522.

In 1985, Dick Mayberry assumed the presidency of Local 522 and quickly established himself as one of our community's most influential champions of labor. This position soon led him to a variety of other important labor and civic posts.

Among these, Mr. Mayberry was a Sacramento County Civil Service Commissioner from 1984 to 1994, chairing that important body for two terms. He has also been a member of the Industrial Relations Association of Northern California for thirteen years, serving as an officer for two terms.

Since 1985, he has been Vice President of the Public Employee Council and an Executive Board Member with the Sacramento Central Labor Council, our city's most prominent representative labor body. Mr. Mayberry's other notable labor positions include the chairmanship of the Board of Publishers of the Sacramento Labor Bulletin and membership in the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Mr. Mayberry has been most forceful in his capacity as the chief negotiator for the City of Sacramento's fire fighters. In performing this key duty, with the pay, benefits, and working conditions of his membership hanging in the balance, Mr. Mayberry achieved his reputation for professional excellence.

In 1995, he retired from active service with the Sacramento Fire Department, but that did not preclude him from passing on his occupational expertise to other fire fighters. In this regard, he has worked as a member of the California State Board of Fire Services since 1996.

Dick Mayberry's unique labor and fire fighting background has led him to represent our community's fire fighters before the Civil Service Commission regarding examinations, classification, and disciplinary matters. He has also attained a strong grasp of the issues involving the merger, consolidation, and reorganization of fire districts.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Mayberry has led a remarkable career in Northern California. He has come to personify integrity and drive in Sacramento's labor community. We ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting his 26 year record of achievement with the Sacramento Area Local Fire Fighters.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK MARTINEZ PORTUSACH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam mourns the passing of one of it's most respected and dedicated leaders. Frank Martinez Portusach, the former mayor of the village of Agana Heights, was called to his eternal rest of December 26, 1996 at the age of 76. He leaves behind his wife, the former Ms. Virginia Hughes and his children Thelma, Frances, Frank, Jane John and Deanna.

Mayor Portusach was an accomplished artist and craftsman, a Merchant Marine Engineering officer, a businessman, and a senior island politician. This man, known throughout the island for his seemingly inexhaustible energy, ushered the transformation of Agana Heights from a village lined with dirt roads, lacking sewer lines, and devoid of community facilities into a model island village with the lowest crime rate, the finest streets, and one of Guam's most extensive community activity programs.

Born in 1921 to Concepcion Portusach Lorenzo and Henry Sakakibara, Mayor Portusach received formal education from several institutions including the Guam High School, U.S. Naval Correspondence School, and the Marine Engineering School under the Department of the Navy. After retiring from the United States Merchant Marines, he started a local business in 1967. He began his political career in 1976, back when mayors were known as village commissioners. Mayor Portusach received an appointment from former Governor Ricky Bordallo as commissioner for the village of Agana Heights. It was at this post that he became so loved and respected by the island's civilian and military communities.

In addition to his efforts towards having village streets paved and in the development of community activities, he is also credited for the construction of waterlines, installation of streetlights, and renovation of village schools. Through his efforts, Agana Heights became the first village on Guam to have mail received through home delivery service. This was made

possible by a detailed village map personally drafted by Mayor Portusach. The Department of Land Management has since included this map in their official records.

However, Mayor Portusach's most prominent and lasting achievement is probably the institution of the Sister Village Program. He really took great pride in his ability to work well with the military community. After hearing about friction between the military and local communities several decades ago, he started the program wherein Guam villages "adopted" local military commands fostering friendship and cooperation. This has resulted in tremendous mutual benefits for service members and the local community.

In recognition of his achievements, he was presented a host of awards and commendations. Among these are several notable and distinct honors. This includes being named an honorary Seabee, an honorary captain in the Police Reserve, and an honorary Commodore in the United States Navy.

The late Honorable Frank Martinez Portusach left a legacy of service and devotion to the village of Agana Heights, the island of Guam, its people and the United States. It is with a sense of great loss that I pay tribute to this distinguished local leaders. His preserverance and energy will forever live in the hearts of his constituents. May his lifelong commitment to the village of Agana Heights and the island forever inspire us.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences and join his widow, children, and grandchildren in mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and a fellow servant to the people of Guam.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE PENSION PORTABILITY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which addresses an extremely important issue—pension portability. Today, there are 51 million American workers with no pension plan and there are many others who lose their pensions when they change jobs. Our society is ever changing and one of these changes is job mobility. It is much more common for individuals to have several jobs than in the past.

Unfortunately, when individuals change jobs, they are not able to continue the same level of pension benefits. This fact is especially true if the individual's pension plan is a defined benefit plan. Today, I am introducing legislation which takes steps towards improving pension portability upon employment separation. The legislation improves pension portability for both defined benefit and defined contribution plans.

For defined contribution plans, the legislation reduces the current vesting period of five years for employer contributions to three years. For both defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans, the legislation requires the employer to offer the employee the option of receiving a lump sum distribution to an individual retirement account (IRA). The employer has to make this offer to the employee within 90 days of termination of employment. The employee does not have to take this option because in some situations this would not be the best option for the employee.

The lump sum would be directly transferred to an IRA. These funds would be subject to a higher penalty than the current law penalty of 10 percent for withdrawals made prior to the taxpayer reaching age 59½. Withdrawals would be subject to a 25 percent penalty for the first two years and then it would be 10 percent. These penalties are the same penalties as for simple IRAs. The 10 percent penalty would be waived for the three allowable purposes under current law which are first time purchase of a home, costs of higher education, and medical expenses.

The legislation waives the 10 percent penalty for withdrawals made before age 59½ for individuals who have received 12 weeks of unemployment compensation. This provision is to help those who have lost their job and need to use their retirement savings to make ends meet during difficult financial times.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PICCONE, UNICO HONOREE OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to put a face and a name to the spirit that embodies one of the strengths of our country: community involvement. Community involvement that stems from a life of dedication and determination. It is a distinct privilege to extend my congratulations to Joe Piccone, Unico Honoree of the Year.

For many, Joe represents the optimum response to the question "What could be?". A child from Civitella, Joe created success in the United States in part due to the strength provided by his culture and customs, and his actions have served to improve the environment and the lives of others. It is fitting that such an outstanding organization recognize the example Joe Piccone sets for commitment to excellence. Sharing Joe's Italian heritage, I am extremely proud to call the honoree a friend and greatly appreciate having this opportunity to express my sincere respect for him.

Businessman, husband and father, or friend; Joe brings an enthusiasm that underscores the importance of engaging yourself in life even with regard to the most ordinary, everyday occurrences. Joe's life illustrates the profound effects that result from love and perseverance. Joe, I salute your most recent accomplishment and offer my best wishes to you and your family for continued success.

TAIWAN STANDS TALL FINANCIALLY AND POLITICALLY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, during the January recess I had an opportunity to visit the Republic of China on Taiwan. I met with President Lee Teng-hui, Foreign Minister Jason Hu, and other leaders. We discussed a number of interesting issues.

One issue was the current financial turmoil affecting Asia. It is interesting to note that Taiwan, so far, has remained relatively unscathed and has stood out as one of the few strong Asian economies. It has close to $90 billion of foreign currency deposits. Its banking sector is not as exposed as other economies to real estate and stock market speculation. Its currency has depreciated 20 percent against the dollar but will remain stable.

The Taiwan economic miracle has shown resilience and dynamism during the past months of Asian meltdown. The economic growth rate for Taiwan in 1997 reached 6.72 percent, the highest in 5 years. Taiwan's economic vitality can also be seen in its low foreign debts. Its total foreign debt amounts to less than $100 million.

Taiwan's economic stability stemmed mainly from sound planning for strong growth and development, financial reform, economic liberalization, and the acceleration of privatization.

The Financial Times of London and the Asian Wall Street Journal recently described Taiwan as the "Switzerland of the Orient." Such accolades about Taiwan speak volumes about the strength and vitality of Taiwan's economy and Taiwan's potential to become a full-fledged developed economy by the turn of the century.

President Lee, Foreign Minister Hu and I also discussed Taiwan's relations with the mainland. Taipei has reiterated its "three nos" and "three musts" policies toward the Chinese mainland. The "three nos" refer to no Taiwan independence, no hasty unification and no confrontation. The "three musts" are the maintenance of peace, the continuation of exchanges and the search for a win-win situation that benefits both Taiwan and the mainland.

Foreign Minister Hu told me that Taipei and Peking must learn to treat each other with respect and work toward collective cooperation. Taipei has always kept its door open for negotiating with Peking and that cross-strait talks should be resumed as soon as possible.

Foreign Minister Hu, the former ROC representative in Washington, is young and energetic. During the last three months as his nation's top diplomat, he has traveled to Africa, consolidated friendship and relations for his country worldwide. In my conversations with him, he discussed the importance of Taiwan-US relations.

Minister Hu reminded me that Taipei has no intention of interfering with the development of US-PRC relations and that Taipei hopes that the US will abide by the Taiwan Relations Act and its regulations regarding arms sales to Taipei. Moreover, he hopes that the US will not change its consistent position on the sovereignty of Taiwan, since the US has never

recognized that the PRC enjoys sovereignty over Taiwan.

Minister Hu also drew my attention to the trade relations between Taipei and the US. Citing Taiwan's purchase of American agricultural exports as one example of the strong trade relations between the two countries, he mentioned Taiwan is the fifth largest market for American agricultural exports. In 1996 Taiwan's imports of American agricultural products were US $2.9 billion; by contrast, the PRC is the seventh largest market for American agricultural exports. Taiwan, in fact, is one of the most important markets for US goods.

Apart from strong trade relations between Taiwan and the US, Minister Hu stressed that the peoples of Taiwan and the United States share the same system of values. Taiwan's democratization has gained recognition from the American public and he hopes that the United States will continue to treat both Taiwan and the Chinese mainland fairly and make efforts for Taiwan and the mainland to settle the reunification issue peacefully.

I was very impressed with Taiwan's financial and political development. And Mr. Speaker, a little history is in order as well. You know, Taiwan is one of the best friends America has ever had. Back during the Cold War, we in America really didn't have a more steadfast ally in our struggle against Communism than the people of Taiwan.

They were integral in stopping the spread of that deadly system in Asia, and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude.

And with the successive free elections over the past few years, the obvious respect for human rights that is evidenced there, and the good neighborly policy they follow in foreign affairs, it is obvious to all honest and well-meaning people that the Republic of China on Taiwan, and not the Communist dictatorship in Beijing, represents the correct model for the future of Chinese civilization. This will remain true no matter what kind of reforms the regime in Beijing attempts, and no matter what kind of policy the West pursues vis-à-vis that regime, as long as the Communists remain in power.

Mr. Speaker, after my trip, I am more convinced than ever that Taiwan is one of the few true democracies in Asia worthy of our support.

TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO PALACIOS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend Eduardo Palacios, who for 27 years has been a bona fide hero to hundreds if not thousands of immigrants in the San Fernando Valley. In 1971, Eduardo started an immigrant rights and resource clinic in a tiny one-room office in the City of San Fernando. Today these kinds of centers are common, but that wasn't the case in the early 1970s.

Eduardo was motivated by the humanitarian concerns and a strong sense of Chicano pride. He witnessed Mexican immigrants who were being exploited by unscrupulous businesses. Language and culture prevented many from seeking or receiving help. By offering his service, Eduardo filled a huge need.

Soon after opening, the clinic moved into a room with a couple of desks and file cabinets in Santa Rosa Church. The clinic adopted the name Immigration Services of Santa Rosa. Using a corps of dedicated volunteers, Eduardo expanded the clinic to include job referrals, medical assistance, food and shelter. He was doing everything possible to provide his clients with the tools to make a good living in this country.

It's hard to believe that Eduardo was doing this work while employed full-time at Harshaw Chemicals. In 1983, he left his job with Harshaw to devote himself to assisting immigrants. Two years later Immigration Services of Santa Rosa was accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals, which led to more clients. The timing could not have been better; new arrivals were now coming to Southern California from Central America as well as Mexico.

Immigration Services of Santa Rosa is a family affair. In 1988, Eduardo hired his daughter, Victoria Aldina, as Assistant Executive Director; three years later his son, Carl Alan, joined the organization as Administrative Director. Together the Palacios have been a godsend for Spanish-speaking immigrants.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Eduardo Palacios, a leader in the effort to improve the lives of immigrants. His compassion, sensitivity and extraordinary energy inspire us all. I am proud to be his friend.

THE SPIRIT OF DR. KING LIVES ON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, we celebrated the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reflecting on his life and work, I was reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicacy of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his vicious murder, should remind all of us that we must continually work and, if necessary, fight, to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in that battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in many of the citizens in communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the 21st century. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District were recognized during the 19th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 19, 1998, at the Gary Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. In the past year, these individuals have, in their own ways, acted with courage, met challenges, and used their abilities to reach goals and enhance their communities.

Lake County Prosecutor, the Honorable Bernard Carter, was honored with the 1998 "Marcher's Award" for his contributions to the struggle for equality of civil rights. As the first African-American County Prosecutor in the State of Indiana, Bernie has been an outstanding professional in his fight for the civil rights of all minorities and women. He has been a role model for our young people and an outspoken and issue-oriented leader in the justice system. In addition, Mr. Curtis Strong received the 1998 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Drum Major Award" for his outstanding contributions to fighting segregation. Curtis has held leadership roles with both the NAACP and the Fair Share Organization, in which he has demonstrated against racial injustices in housing, education, employment, and police brutality. Curtis was also a top labor union official who fought for minority inclusion in union leadership, skilled crafts jobs, and seniority appreciation. Both Bernard Carter and Curtis Strong should be applauded for their important civil rights efforts in Northwest Indiana.

I would also like to recognize the following Tolleston Junior High School students: Janne' Bryant, Antoinette Correa, Tiffany Finch, Brandi Frith, Lakisha Girder, Leyona Greer, Damara Hamlin, Ayonna Hood, Leah Johnson, Jacleen Joiner, Candice Jones, Taariq Muhammad, Ayashia Muhammad, Ilisha Muhammad, Reneda Pryor, Whitney Sullivan, David Suggs, Courtney Williams, and Joey Willis. These distinguished students are members of the Tolleston Junior High School Spell Bowl Team, which won the 1997 Indiana State Bowl Championship in spelling. In addition, the following students from Northwest Indiana won the 1997 "I Have A Dream" Youth Assembly essay contest this past July in Little Rock, Arkansas: Dayna Maria Ingram, of West Side High School; Wesley Adam Gordon, of St. Michael School; Katherine R. Rzepka, of Andrean High School; Tavetta Pulliam, of Horace Mann High School; and Daniel J. Davis, of Valparaiso High School.

The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to scholarship. Their scholastic effort and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the State and in the Nation. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their schools and their communities. Their success is also a credit to the outstanding ability and leadership of their teachers. In particular, Margaret Hymes and Charles Wells should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches for the Tolleston Junior High Spell Bowl Team.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflects many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he espoused. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. They set goals and worked to achieve them. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in commending their initiative, resolve, and dedication.

CONTRIBUTION BY LIZ MOWRY TO THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, we honor our veterans not only by recognizing what they have done for this country, but also by remembering what they sacrificed to achieve that goal. For many families in Southwestern Pennsylvania, like mine, who have family members that served during wartime, we are reminded every day about these sacrifices.

Late last year, a resident of my district, Liz Mowry of Munhall, Pennsylvania, gave a very special gift to the Pittsburgh community. Her contribution will not only help to honor our veterans, but it will also help our entire nation understand and remember the supreme sacrifices they made during wartime in order to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

This gift was many personal possessions owned by her father during his service in World War I, which Ms. Mowry donated to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Pittsburgh, the Commonwealth's, and the nation's second largest veterans' museum. These items are significant for many reasons.

One of the most impressive features is the excellent condition of the items, given their age. In fact, the centerpiece of the collection is a military uniform, now over 80 years old, in museum-quality shape. Other items Ms. Mowry is giving to the Memorial are WWI photos and a copy of the diary her father kept during his service.

These items are also historically significant because of their owner. Sergeant William Edward "Doc" Handschuh, Ms. Mowry's father, was a member of Company 3, the Ist Air Service Mechanical Regiment. His work included servicing planes flown by WWI flying ace Edward Rickenbacher, who some consider to be one of the best, and most famous, pilots in history.

However, the most important thing Sergeant Handschuh left his family was not his service memorabilia, but the pride he felt for his service, and his country. While these lessons cannot be hung in a museum, they live in the minds and hearts of Sergeant Handschuh's family.

Liz Mowry and her family have kept her father's wartime memories as a reminder of his service. Now, these rare pieces of American history can teach us all more about the young Americans that fought in the early years of this century to protect this nation's future.

I add my sincere gratitude to that of the entire Pittsburgh community for the gift Ms. Mowry has bestowed on the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. Our community has a long history of honoring military service, and her donation will continue that tradition, giving all Memorial visitor's the opportunity to learn more about the veterans of WWI.

TRIBUTE TO LEE WELINSKY

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of the Congress the accomplishments of Lee Welinsky, a constituent and friend whose life and commitment to her family and community has exemplified the very best spirit of American citizenship. On Saturday, February 7, Lee's many friends and admirers will gather at the Red Lion Hotel in Culver City, California to honor her on her 70th birthday. It is a pleasure to join them in paying tribute to her.

Lee has led a rich and remarkable life which began in 1928 when she was born in Indianapolis, Indiana to parents who were immigrants from Eastern Europe. She spent her childhood in Brooklyn, New York. An excellent student, she was valedictorian of her junior high school class at P.S. 109.

In 1943, Lee's parents moved to Los Angeles, where in 1945 she graduated from Susan Miller Dorsey High School at the age of 16. It was at this time that she explored her interest in flying. It was her mother's concern for her safety that persuaded her to quit flying to concentrate on her studies at Los Angeles Community College. However, when World War II ended she was unable to continue her studies as she would have liked because of the many schedule changes required to accommodate the returning veterans.

It was in 1947 that Lee met and fell in love with Jack Welinsky, and the following year they were married. Their first child, Howard, was born a year later, and their daughter, Sandra followed in 1954. During these years she devoted herself to raising a family. Despite those demands, she helped Jack with his auto supply business and supported Howard and Sandra through college at UCLA.

In 1976, Lee suffered the loss of her husband Jack and her mother. In the wake of that loss, she decided that at age 48, it was time to resume her formal education, this time at West Los Angeles College. As with every important undertaking, she pursued it with great commitment and determination. That commitment and determination enabled her to graduate with honors with an Associate of Arts degree in 1981, and in 1984 she graduated Cum Laude from California State University, Domiguez Hills with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. In 1989, at the age of 62, Lee graduated from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree and later passed the bar on her first attempt.

Lee is currently an attorney with the Santa Monica Rent Control Agency, where her expertise in landlord-tenant issues has made her a vital resource. She has been honored by the Culver City Council for her work on the Culver City Rent Control Board. She is also a volunteer attorney at the Bet Tzedek legal clinic where she counsels low income people with landlord-tenant problems.

Throughout her busy and active life, Lee has always been involved in politics and the debate over public policy. She has served as a member of the Culver City Planning Commission, President of the Culver City Democratic Club, and President of her union at the City of Santa Monica Rent Control Agency. In 1994 she was honored as "Democrat of the Year" by her Assembly District Democratic Committee. She is currently a delegate to the Democratic State Convention, and has been elected to serve on the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party.

In her modest way Lee would insist that her greatest accomplishment has been her family. As with all her other important endeavors, she has embraced the role of grandmother to Sandra's two children, Jennifer and David, with enthusiasm. She continues to be involved in their lives and with them she indulges her great love of travel.

Mr. Speaker, Lee Welinsky is an exceptional individual whose life of service to her family and her community stands as an example for us all. I know that my colleagues join me in honoring her many achievements and contributions and in wishing her a very happy 70th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO A. LOWELL LAWSON, JR., BUSINESS LEADER, PATRIOT AND SERVANT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of personal pleasure that I recognize the major accomplishments of an individual who dedicated his career to serving the interests of our country by strengthening our national security for the past 37 years.

On January 1, 1998 Mr. A. Lowell Lawson will retire as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Raytheon E-Systems. Under Mr. Lawson's leadership, E-Systems has contributed vitally to the effectiveness of the national intelligence community. In doing so, E-Systems contributed substantially to the United States being victorious in the Cold War—and in keeping us ever vigilant even today.

Mr. Lawson currently is a Raytheon Company Executive Vice President and a member of Raytheon's Board of Directors since 1995.

Mr. Lawson has served as head of E-Systems since August 1994. Prior to that he was President and CEO, beginning January 1994. In April of 1989, Mr. Lawson was elected President and Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Lawson was born on January 16, 1938 in Macon, Georgia. He graduated from Warner Robins High School in Warner Robins, Georgia in 1956.

After graduating from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics in 1960, Mr. Lawson served as a contract price analyst at Warner Robins Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Mr. Lawson joined E-Systems in 1964 as supervisor of proposal and cost analysis and later became manager of cost and services in the Greenville Division. He was assigned to the corporate staff as manager of corporate financial controls in 1965. He was promoted to

director of corporate financial controls in 1969, and in 1970 became vice president-finance and division controller at the Memcor Division in Huntington, Indiana. Early in 1973 he was named Vice President and Corporate Controller of E-Systems. He was promoted to the position of Vice President and General Manager of the Greenville Division in 1978.

Mr. Lawson was named Senior Vice President and group executive of the Aircraft Systems Group in 1983. In April 1987, he was elected to the position of Executive Vice President, and served in that capacity until his election as President and COO.

His service is exemplified in his support and participation as a member of the Air Force Association, American Defense Preparedness Association, Association of the United States Army, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Association of Old Crows, and Navy League of the United States. He has served on the University of Texas at Dallas Engineering School Advisory Board, and was previously a member of the Business Advisory Council of the East Texas State University.

He resides in Greenville, Texas and is a deacon at the Ridgecrest Baptist Church, past treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of Dallas Bible College, and has served on the Industrial Development Fund Board for the city of Greenville, Texas.

Mr. Lawson is married to the former Carol Few of Apalachee, Georgia. They have two sons, Andrew Lowell, III and Steven Bryan, and seven grandchildren.

I cannot imagine any person being more successful—more productive—and yet so capable of friendship. I am very lucky to be a friend of Lowell and of his family.

Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to the exemplary accomplishments of Mr. A. Lowell Lawson, for a lifetime of achievements as a business leader, patriot, and servant of the United States of America.

COMMEMORATION OF SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the recent 50th anniversary of Sacramento's nonprofit, community-owned electric company—the Sacramento Municipal Utility District—commonly known as SMUD.

Dissatisfied with high electric rates, on July 2, 1923, Sacramento voters overcame tremendous opposition to approve the creation of SMUD. Although SMUD became a legal entity in 1923, it was another 23 years before the courts upheld the District's right to supply power to the capital region. On New Year's Eve 1946, SMUD began operations.

Throughout its history, SMUD has survived numerous challenges: fighting to restore power during floods and windstorms, teaching customers how to conserve power during the energy crisis of the 1970's, and successfully responding to the closure of Rancho Seco nuclear power plant in 1989. And through it all, SMUD has remained true to its customers. It has consistently sought and developed new and environmentally friendly sources of power. It has educated the public on energy conservation and efficiency when it became a critical national problem. SMUD is currently recognized as an industry leader in energy efficiency and in renewable energy.

For several years, SMUD has been investing in renewable energy sources such as solar and geothermal power plants. Other strategic planning on the part of SMUD, such as aggressive power-purchasing throughout the western U.S., has kept customer rates constant since 1990. SMUD has committed itself to hold customer rates constant until 2001, then reduce them by as much as 20 percent.

In California beginning this year, customers will begin to have a choice of electric supplier—similar to how they currently choose their long-distance telephone company. Last summer, SMUD became the first utility in California to begin offering customers a choice. A limited number of customers, whose combined electricity usage will add up to 100 megawatts of SMUD'S total 2000 megawatts of peak usage, is opened to competition allowing customers to buy power from a supplier of their choice. By moving months ahead of the other utilities, SMUD gained valuable experience, learning the impact of competition on customers and on SMUD operations.

SMUD's commitment to the Sacramento area goes beyond merely providing electrical power. From its inception. SMUD has recognized its responsibility to return something to the community it serves. Last year, as part of the District's Employee Volunteer Program, employees volunteered over 2,300 hours and raised $20,000 to assist non-profit organizations in the Sacramento area. In partnership with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, SMUD customers have planted more than 200,000 trees in Sacramento since the program began in 1990. SMUD is also aiding in the economic development of the Capital Region. By offering competitive economic development rates, SMUD has helped attract and retain successful companies such as Campbell Soup, Blue Diamond, Packard Bell, Kikkoman and JVC. In the past five years, SMUD has helped to attract or retain 13,000 jobs during a period of economic recession. SMUD is also trying to create a cluster of electric vehicle-related businesses at the McClellan Air Force Base which is slated to close in 2001. McClellan is the largest industrial center in Northern California and offers a sophisticated array of high-tech services that can be contracted by private companies.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sacramento Municipal Utility District on its 50th year and we wish them continued success as they approach the 21st century and the new competitive environment in the electric power industry.

INDEXING FOR INFLATION $2,000 LIMIT FOR IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to help those who do not have employer sponsored pension plans. I agree with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that our biggest economic problem is our low national saving rate. Since August of 1997, Americans have been setting aside only 3.8 percent of their personal income.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 included tax incentives to increase personal saving. This new law expanded individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and created the Roth IRA. Under the new Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, an individual may contribute $2,000 to either a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA. This $2,000 limit has not been increased since 1981.

This legislation would simply index the $2,000 limit for inflation in $500 increments. The $2,000 limit would just be increased just for traditional IRAs and not Roth IRAs. The reason for this is traditional IRAs have lower income limits and are designed to help those who do not have employer pension plans.

It is important we do as much as possible to help individuals save for retirement. Many use IRAs as their sole source of private savings for retirement. The $2,000 limit has not been adjusted since 1981. This is a saving for retirement.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation. During the 105th Congress, I look for ward to enacting legislation which will improve our current pension system.

The last provision of the bill addresses a provision of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 includes a provision which allows an employer to voluntarily cash-out employees from pension plans upon termination of employment if the amount is less than $5,000. My legislation would require this sum to be placed in an IRA. The purpose of this provision is to lock up this money for retirement savings. This sum was not taxable income for the employee because it was earmarked for retirement. This provision would allow the funds to be used for retirement.

I urge my colleagues to review and cosponsor this legislation. Pension portability is a serious issue and this legislation makes strides towards improving it. Among all distributions that occur at job change, 33 percent result in an IRA rollover, 7 percent are rolled over to a new employee plan, and 60 percent are cashed out. We need to impose these statistics and the legislation I am introducing today will do this. Enclosed is a summary of the legislation.

SUMMARY OF PENSION IMPROVEMENT ACT

Section 1. Short Title.—This legislation is entitled the "Pension Improvement Act of 1998".

Section 2. Faster Vesting for Employer Contribution to Defined Contribution Plans.—Reduced vesting from five to three years for employer contributions to defined

contribution plans. Allows an option instead of 3 year vesting the following schedule: at 1 year, 20 percent at 2 years 40 percent, at 3 years 60 percent, at 4 years 80 percent, and at 5 years 100 percent.

Section 3. Employers Required to Permit Rollovers to Individual Retirement Plans Within 3 Months After Separation from Service.—Employer required within 90 days of termination of employment to offer employee their pension benefits to be rolled over into an IRA. The employee is not required to take this option. Withdrawals before the taxpayer reach age 59 and ½ from the rollover IRA are subject to a 25 percent penalty for the first two years and then 10 percent. Current law is a 10 percent penalty on early withdrawals. As under current law, the 10 percent penalty would be waived for withdrawals for first time purchase of a home, costs of higher education, and medical expenses.

Section 4. Penalty-Free Distributions from Individual Retirement Plans to Unemployed Individuals.—The 10 percent penalty would be waived for withdrawals made if the taxpayer has received unemployment compensation for twelve weeks.

Section 5. Involuntary Cash-outs Permitted Only if Distribution Rolled to an IRA.—Involuntary cash-outs of less than $5,000 need to be rolled over directly into an IRA.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF RALPH VAUGHN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that in Rutherford County, when someone hears the words, "My friend, my friend,—are you excited?," one can only expect to be greeted by the jovial and gregarious, Mr. Ralph Vaughn. Eleven years ago, we were fortunate enough to find someone of his caliber and talents to tackle the challenges facing Rutherford County and the Chamber of Commerce.

Today, I rise to honor the distinguished career of the retiring Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce President, and one of the most enthusiastic individuals I know, Mr. Ralph Vaughn.

When Ralph joined the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce in 1986, the organization had two employees and an annual operating budget of less than $100,000. Now, under his leadership, the chamber has seen membership double, staff increase to twelve and the operating budget grow to over $700,000.

Probably the single greatest accomplishment for which Ralph will be remembered is the recent transition of the Chamber office from a log Cabin to its new 10,000 square foot State of the Art facility.

Ralph has been a driving force in preparing Rutherford Countians for the challenges of an expanding economy and continued growth. It was Ralph's innovations and hard work that helped push tourism from a $34 million a year industry to over $110 million dollars today. It was also Ralph's vision that helped conceptualize a long range economic development strategy for growth in Rutherford County, known as Rutherford 20/20.

Ralph has not only helped Rutherford County grow, but he also never forgot his hometown of Smithville, Tennessee. Before coming to head the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, Ralph had a distinguished career in the broadcasting industry which had him managing a successful AM/FM station in Smithville.

However, this is not all Ralph did to help his community. Back in 1971, he and a small group of community leaders founded the now internationally famous Fiddler's Jamboree in Smithville. This event has grown from about 8,000 attendees to over 110,000 in 1996 and was recently named the Official Jamboree and Crafts festival of the State of Tennessee.

Ralph's cheerful smile will surely be missed by the folks at the Chamber, but one thing is for sure he has left an indelible mark on both the success and growth of our community. I am sure he will never stop making new friends and promoting Rutherford County. It has truly been a privilege to work with this man, and I wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.

ROLLIN POST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and veteran political reporter Rollin Post, who recently retired as an analyst for KRON-TV in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since entering journalism in 1952 as a copy boy with CBS Radio in Hollywood, Rollin Post has become well known for his passion for politics, for his sound reporting, and for his insights into the issues confronting our nation and the world. From 1961 to 1973, he concentrated on political and general assignment reporting for KPIX-TV in San Francisco and became the Bay Area's first full time political reporter toward the end of that time. Mr. Post spent the next six years at San Francisco public television station KQED, where he worked on news programs *A Closer Look* and *Newsroom*. In September 1979, Mr. Post joined KRON-TV as a political editor. He provided election night commentary for the station and became best known as co-host of KRON's Sunday morning public affairs program, *California This Week*, which has given Bay Area viewers political insight on local, state, and national issues from newsmakers around the world.

There have been many special moments in Mr. Post's career. He covered fourteen national political conventions, spent a week in Cuba reporting on trade, tourism, and American hijackers in 1978, and covered the Philippine elections in 1986. As a result of his outstanding work, he was given the prestigious Broadcast Preceptor Award from the 32nd Annual San Francisco State University Broadcast Industry Conference for his *Outstanding Contributions to the Industry*. A year later, he was one of three media figures honored by the Coro Foundation for influential participation in the public arena. In 1991, Mr. Post received the Outstanding Journalism Award from Sigma Delta Chi, the professional journalism fraternity.

Although Mr. Post has retired from KRON-TV and *California This Week*, the people of the Bay Area are fortunate that he has decided to continue hosting *Our World This Week*, an international news show produced by Bay TV in cooperation with the World Affairs Council of Northern California.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rollin Post for his exceptionally distinguished career in journalism and wish him our congressional best as he continues providing the San Francisco Bay Area with his superb insights on the great issues of our times.

THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to honor the legacy of the four chaplains, who, over 50 years ago, bravely gave their own lives in the icy waters of the North Atlantic so that others might live on. The chaplains—George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling, Protestant ministers; Alexander D. Goode, a rabbi; and John P. Washington, a Catholic priest—offered their life vests to four other men aboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* after the ship had been torpedoed by a German U-boat in the early-mourning hours of February 3, 1943.

The *Dorchester*, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers, was one of three ships in the SG–19 convoy travelling from Newfoundland, across the Atlantic, toward a U.S. Army base on the coast of Greenland. The risk involved in the triad's journey was well-known: the area was constantly patrolled by German U-boats, and the Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa*, a second ship in the convoy, had hours before the attack spotted a German submarine with its sonar.

In the moments just after midnight on February 3rd, as the *Dorchester* crept within 15 miles of its final destination, the ship's captain, Hans J. Danielsen, noticed a German U-boat fast approaching on the horizon. At 12:55 of that same morning the German submarine fired a series of torpedoes, which struck the *Dorchester* well below the water-line, injuring the ship beyond all repair.

Many men were killed instantly from the impact of the blast; many others—including those seriously injured by the initial barrage, and the chaplains—would go down with the ship. As the water poured in through the battered starboard side it became clear that the supply of life jackets was insufficient, and it was into the ensuing scene of chaos, despair, and disbelief that the chaplains contributed their fearless ray of light which shone through the darkness.

When the dearth of life jackets was revealed, the chaplains readily and without question removed their own and gave them to four frightened young men; as the *Dorchester*

then began to go down, the chaplains stayed beside the injured men, and offered prayers for those who had died and were injured in the wreckage. It is a testament to their own faith and to their overarching love of man that the chaplains—representatives of three distinct religious creeds—were united in the end as one petitioner before God. When the deck slanted into the water and the chaplains breathed their final breaths they were seen by survivors with their arms linked together in a final symbol of their unity of faith and vision. As stated by Francis B. Thorton in his epic, *Sea of Glory: The Magnificent Story of the Four Chaplains:* "Catholic, Jew and Protestant; each proved that night that courage knows no distinction of creed, bravery no division of caste."

Of the 902 men who boarded the *Dorchester* on February 2, 1943, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. The legacy of the four chaplains, however, will forever live on through the hearts and minds of the American people. For the qualities which their story defines—hope, self-sacrifice, and inexorable faith—are the qualities which define true American heroes. It is for this reason that the four courageous chaplains must not be forgotten, lest the attributes which they so thoroughly represent be forgotten as well.

The four Army chaplains were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart at a ceremony at Fort Meyer, VA in 1944. A chapel in Philadelphia honoring their heroic act of selflessness was dedicated by President Truman in February of 1951, and the chaplains were posthumously awarded a Special Medal of Heroism in January of 1951 by President Kennedy. Additionally, a memorial fountain at the National Memorial Park outside of Washington, DC was constructed in 1955 to attest to their extraordinary act of courage.

On February 1st, the chaplains will be honored in services by the Rockland County American Legion and the Orange County American Legion. In Rockland County the services will be held at the Cavalry Baptist Church; in Orange County they will be held at the First Baptist Church of Middletown.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in the commemoration of the chaplains' heroic act of courage which we commemorate throughout this month.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM RUSSELL, FOUNDER OF KELLY SERVICES

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. William Russell Kelly, founder of Russell Kelly Office Service, and founder of this modern temporary help industry. Mr. Kelly died Saturday, January 3 at his home in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He was 92.

In 1946, single-handedly, Russ Kelly founded a new industry in a Detroit storefront. It began as an accommodation to employers to fill in for vacationing or sick employees, and also to supplement regular staff during short-term workloads. In the early days most of the temporary employees were women secretaries, hence the name "Kelly Girls" soon became a trademark around the world. Society has moved far beyond this confined role for women and so has the company; today, tens of thousands of professional and technical women and men have joined others in Kelly Services.

Beginning as a fledgling company totaling $848.00 in sales in its first year, Kelly Services has grown today to a Fortune 500 and a Forbes 500 company, with annual sales approaching $4 billion. Annually, this Troy, Michigan-based company provides the services of more than 750,000 of its employees through more than 1,500 company offices in 50 states and 16 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the ingenuity and the memory of this entrepreneurial pioneer. Indeed, when Russ Kelly was asked how he wanted to be remembered, he said, "Only as a pioneer."

I extend my sincere sympathy to Russell Kelly's wife, Margaret, his son, Terence E. Adderley, who joined the company in 1958 and became its President in 1967 and who has now succeeded Mr. Kelly as Chairman of the Board of the Company, his daughter-in-law, Mary Beth and his six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES B. HUNTER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James B. Hunter, a longtime member of the Arlington, Virginia, County Board, who passed away on January 5.

Jim Hunter embodied what many of us strive our entire lives to achieve—a compassionate and effective blend of civic activism and public service that forms a lasting legacy.

Jim served on the Arlington County Board from 1990 until he retired, for health reasons, last September. While on the Board, Jim Hunter spoke up loudly and effectively for the rights of those whose voices are often muted.

But his record of public service encompasses much more than those seven years as an elected official. This willingness to speak up for the dispossessed began long before Jim ever held elected office. Through years of community work, he had built his reputation as a wise and dedicated public servant for years before he gave Arlington voters the opportunity to endorse his leadership through election.

Throughout his life, Jim gave of his time to raise money for groups like the United Way, and served on the boards of the Arlington County chapter of the American Red Cross and the Veterans Memorial YMCA. He was a former president of the Committee of 100, a group of concerned Arlingtonians committed to finding solutions to community challenges. He founded the Arlington Housing Corporation, an organization that works for low- and moderate-income housing and helps keep county teenagers out of trouble. He served on numerous county commissions dealing with issues as wide-ranging as law enforcement, fiscal affairs, and planning.

As a member of the County Board, he served on committees of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, including a stint as chair of COG's transportation planning board and service on boards dealing with airport noise abatement, human services, public safety, and the environment.

But aside from his generous contributions to public service, Jim demonstrated his dedication to others in his private life as well. After he and his wife, Patricia, had three children of their own, they adopted a teenage girl who has fled her native Laos with an aunt and an uncle and who was living in a two-bedroom apartment with 10 other people. This personal response to suffering was indicative of Jim Hunter's life of purposeful compassion.

A Marine Corps veteran, a loving husband, father and grandfather, a respected, indeed beloved, public servant, Jim Hunter served as a role model for an entire generation of civic activists who learned from him profound and lasting lessons about duty, responsibility, and integrity. His family, his friends, and his community will miss him, but we will also remember his commitment to the less fortunate, and in remembering, we will renew our own.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM LYLES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a special word in tribute to the late William R. (Bill) Lyles, a former circuit clerk for Pettis County, Missouri.

A native of Sedalia, MO, Lyles graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1943. After high school, he served his nation in the United States Army, fighting in both World War II and the Korean War. In between his military service, Lyles became a small businessman, operating Lyles Cleaners from August 1947 to 1964. In 1966, Mr. Lyles was elected circuit clerk of Pettis County, MO. He was re-elected to that post until his retirement on January 1, 1995.

As a lifelong civic leader, Bill Lyles made it his mission to participate in many community activities. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, American Legion Post No. 16, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2591, Sedalia Lodge No. 236 AF&AM, Missouri Circuit Clerks Association, Missouri Child Support Association, Association of Retired Missouri State Employees, and the Pettis County Democrat Club. He was also a charter member of the Sedalia Chapter of Missouri Jaycees.

Lyles is survived by his wife Davijean, three sons, two daughters, one brother, and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Lyles' military and public service makes him a role model for young civil leaders, and his closeness within the Sedalia community will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HENRY LOU GEHRIG INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL MICROSOCIETY ITS 1ST ANNUAL CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Henry Lou Gehrig Intermediate School Microsociety, an invaluable Bronx institution, which celebrated its 1st Annual Citizenship Ceremony Wednesday, December 3, 1997 in the Rotunda of the Bronx County Building.

Thanks to the efforts of some civic-minded groups in the Bronx to meet the need for increased education facilities and better prepare the youth in the Bronix for real life, the Henry Lou Gehrig Intermediate School Microsociety was established. In fact, the program prepares 6th grade students for high school after three years. It gives them the opportunity to experience real life situations, explore career opportunities, become problem solvers, understand the need for responsibility and develop leadership ability.

Mr. Speaker, the Henry Lou Gehrig Intermediate School Microsociety also encourages the youth of our Bronx to share time and energy with neighborhood improvement groups and programs for youth in our community. They gain strength, hope and leadership skills through united community involvement. Through Microsociety setting, students are able to choose jobs in their area of interest.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the 16th district of New York where the Henry Lou Gehrig Intermediate School Microsociety is located and I am delighted by its success.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute the Henry Lou Gehrig Intermediate School Microsociety, to the administration and faculty, and to the students, whose ambition and hard work will make this great institution a tremendous source of pride and success for years to come.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GEORGE CHAFFEY JR.

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of California's true pioneers—George Chaffey Jr., on the 150th anniversary of his birth.

George Chaffey Jr., who was born on January 28, 1848, emigrated with his family to Southern California from Canada in 1880, went on to found the communities of Etiwanda and Ontario, as well as developing what are now the cities of Ontario, Upland and Rancho Cucamonga. Additionally Mr. Chaffey founded the California cities of Imperial, and Calexico, as well as the Australian Cities of Mildura and Renmark.

In Etiwanda, now a part of modern day Rancho Cucamonga, George Chaffey became the first person west of the Rocky Mountains to design and install a hydroelectric power system to generate electricity that lit two towering 3,000 candlepower arc lights on his property.

The Chaffey-Garcia house in Rancho Cucamonga was the first in Southern California to use Edison's electric incandescent lamps. Chaffey also installed the world's first long-distance telephone lines, and founded the first mutual water company in California.

In Ontario, Chaffey integrated his four key principles: wide-scale irrigation of the land, construction of one main thoroughfare, establishment of Chaffey College as a branch of the University of southern California and prohibition of liquor sales.

In 1901 George Chaffey designed and built 150 miles of canal from the Colorado River to Imperial California.

In 1942, ten years after his death, the U.S. Navy launched a Liberty Ship in San Pedro named the SS George Chaffey.

It is an honor to pay tribute to this dedicated individual who through his vision and foresight helped to make the Inland Empire, and indeed California the dynamic and liveable places that they are today.

ABORTION'S CHILDREN

HON. JIM TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I request the following eloquent article be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 22, 1998]

(By Peggy Noonan)

On the 25th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we know certain facts. We know that at this point about 1.5 million abortions are performed each year in the United States. And we know that the fight over whether legalized abortion should continue has not waned with time, as many thought it would, but grown.

The debate has always been by adults about adults. What are the effects on women when they terminate a pregnancy? Do they suffer unusual depression a year or two after the procedure?

Opponents of abortion also talk about the effects of abortion on the fetus being aborted. Does it feel pain?

But there is another group of children who have been overlooked in the debate—the children who have grown up in the abortion culture, the children now 10 or 15 or even 20 years old who have had it drummed into them by television and radio and in magazines, what abortion is and why and how it became legal. It is part of the aural wallpaper of their lives. They have grown up knowing phrases like "abortion on demand" and "the right to abortion" and hearing nice adults, the people next door, talk about supporting politicians who will "protect" these "rights."

I wonder if such talk has not left many of these children confused, so deeply that they do not even know they are confused, and morally dulled.

We all know the recent horror stories. According to prosecutors and news accounts, a girl at a prom delivers a baby in the bathroom and lets it die, then rearranges herself, washes up and goes back to the dance. A pair of college-aged lovers from "good families" in "pricey suburbs," as news accounts put it, rent a motel room, where he delivers their child, which they throw into a Dumpster.

Is it too much to see a connection between the abortion culture in which these young people came of age and the moral dullness they are accused of displaying? Of course, such crimes have occurred throughout time; history and literature are full of them. But what is new, I think, is the apparent surprise of the young girl at the prom, and of the young couple at the motel, at the disapproval society has shown toward them.

And why should society disapprove? What, after all, is the difference between what the girl at the prom is accused of doing and a late-term abortion, something she would have heard discussed, explained and defended on television and in the newspaper?

A late-term abortion means pulling a fully formed but not yet born baby out of the womb, piercing its brain with scissors, sucking out the brain, collapsing the skull and then removing the dead baby. In the girl's home state, New Jersey, this was legal. Why wouldn't she think there is no difference, really, between that and choking a baby to death in a bathroom stall and then dropping it in a trash bin? And what, in fact, is the difference? Only that one death occurred in a bathroom stall, and the other happened in a hospital with clean white sheets and a doctor.

Consider, too, the young couple in the motel and the reasoning that may have left them free of any sense of sin or crime. If the accusations are true, what did they do that was wrong besides refuse to suck into life an inconvenient baby? Isn't that what the culture they were born into, and grew to young adulthood in, does?

I think that's the great ignored story—what we have done to our children by legalizing abortion and championing it. The daily abortion stories and abortion polls and abortion editorials and abortion pictures and stories showing how the movement to "protect these rights" is faring—all this has drummed into their heads the idea that human life is not special, is not sanctified, is not a life formed by God but a fertilized ovum that makes demands and can be removed.

What we teach the young every day is moral confusion about the worth of an ordinary human life. This has wounded, in a very real and personal way, big pieces of an entire generation. And I suspect it has left them frightened, too.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID E. PHILIPS

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to pay tribute to David E. Philips, a man who will be long remembered as a unique person who enjoyed sharing his many talents, not only with those close to him, but with his entire community.

Mr. Philips was a dedicated professor of English at Eastern Connecticut State University from 1962 until his retirement in 1991. Beloved by faculty and students alike, he brought more to his university than just a specialized

knowledge of Connecticut folklore. An academic and an historian, Mr. Philips also devoted himself to the personal betterment of his students in the name of true higher education. His legacy, not only as an inspirational professor, but as an inspirational man, will long be remembered throughout his community.

After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, Mr. Philips returned home and became active in civic affairs. His hard work was pivotal for the planning and development of the new "Frog" bridge in Willimantic. Serving as a member of the Windham Board of Education from 1971 to 1979, Mr. Philips expounded an exceptional amount of effort to ensure the best possible future for the children of eastern Connecticut.

Not limiting himself to educational issues, Mr. Philips also donated further time and energy to the Democratic Town Committee and was chairman of the town planning commission. Spending his summers in Trenton, ME, he was contributing editor of Down East Magazine for 25 years.

An extraordinary individual, Mr. Philips was a powerful storyteller who brought joy to audiences of all ages with his remarkable ability. Author of the book, *Legendary Connecticut*, Mr. Philips joyfully shared his passion for folklore with the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a rare man that can devote his life to things he loves while contributing so much to the community at the same time. David E. Philips will be missed by everyone he touched, but most of all by his two sons Evan and Donald and the rest of the Philips family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation to reauthorize a landmark conservation law known as the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act.

This historic legislation, which was enacted into law four years ago, was modeled after the highly successful African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988. The fundamental purpose of this law was to establish a Conservation Fund to finance worthwhile projects to assist highly imperiled species of rhinos and tigers. Sadly, the populations of these two flagship species continue to decline and, unless additional assistance is provided, they will continue to slide toward extinction.

In the case of the rhinoceros, it has been estimated that their population has been decimated from 65,000 animals in 1970 to less than 11,000 today. In fact, in the case of two of the five species of rhinoceros, the Javan and Sumatran, there are less than 600 left in the world. While all five species of rhinoceros were listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1977 and a worldwide trade ban has been imposed, poachers continue to slaughter rhinos for their horns. These horns have been used for generations in Asian medicine to treat fever in children and as decorative handles for ceremonial daggers.

Despite plummeting populations of rhinoceros, there is still an insatiable demand for rhino horn, which has made this commodity extremely valuable. In fact, African rhino horn can be worth as much as $10,000 per kilogram and rare Asian rhino horn is worth up to $60,000 per kilogram. The largest consumers of rhino horn live in China, Taiwan, and South Korea.

Regrettably the situation facing tigers is even worse. Of the eight subspecies of tigers once found in the world, three have become extinct and the remaining five populations have been reduced from 100,000 tigers in 1990 to less than 5,000 animals today. Furthermore, the three subspecies of South China, Siberian and Sumatran all have populations that are estimated at less than 500 animals.

Although commercial activities and human population growth have transformed large amounts of the tiger's habitat, illegal hunting has had the most dramatic impact. Despite the fact that all tigers are protected under CITES, tigers are killed for their fur and most of their body parts. Tiger bone is used in many forms of traditional Oriental medicines including powders, tablets, and wines that are consumed to fight pain, kidney and liver problems, convulsions, and heart conditions. Like rhino horn, the major consumers of these products live in China, Taiwan, and South Korea. According to CITES, during the past six years, South Korea imported about 10,500 pounds and China 78 tons of tiger bone.

Sadly, the financial rewards of illegally killing a tiger are substantial. According to the World Wildlife Fund, a pound of tiger bone sells for over $1,400 and a tiger pelt may be worth up to $15,000. It is essential this market be destroyed and that people who live in the tigers' habitat begin to understand the consequences of exterminating an animal that has such a dramatic impact on so many other species.

These were fundamental goals of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994. While it is still too early to tell whether this law will stop the population decline, it is clear that unless the United States takes a proactive leadership role in saving these species, they will soon only exist in remote wild locations or in zoos.

Since its enactment, the Congress has appropriated $1 million over the last three fiscal years. While this is considerably less than the $30 million that was authorized, this money has funded 24 conservation projects to assist rhinos and tigers at a Federal cost of about $530,000. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now evaluating an additional 70 proposals from organizations that are interested in helping to conserve these irreplaceable species.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has funded 12 rhino projects, 6 tiger projects, and 6 projects that will benefit both species. These projects have included: an adopt-a-warden program in Indonesia; aerial monitoring of the Northern white rhinoceros in Zaire; establishment of a community rhino scout program for the survival of the black rhino populations in Kenya; investigation of poaching and illegal trade in wild tigers in India; a tiger community education program in Indonesia; and training of staff and surveys of four black rhino populations in the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania. The sponsors of these projects, who are likely to match the grants with private funds, include the International Rhino Foundation, the Minnesota Zoo Foundation, and the World Wildlife Fund.

Based on the success of the African Elephant Conservation Fund, I am hopeful that these grants will make a positive difference in the fight to conserve rhinos and tigers.

Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act, a bill to extend this landmark law for four years in the hope that it will help ensure that these vital species do not disappear from this planet.

"THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMF IN THE ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS"

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, the U.S. Congress will be debating the role and policies of the International Monetary Fund and how or whether the United States should support this international institution. The context will be the Administration's request for $3.5 billion for the New Arrangements to Borrow and $14.5 billion for an IMF quota increase, or capital replenishment.

BACKGROUND

Before turning to the heart of this debate, a brief background is in order. First, the New Arrangements to Borrow, or NAB, came about subsequent to the Mexican peso crisis of 1994–95. The United States led that rescue effort, with the assistance of the international institutions and other concerned nations. At U.S. urging, the G–7 Heads of State at the Halifax Summit in June 1995 called on the G–10 and other countries with financial capacity to develop a financial program that would have the capacity to handle future crises in the international financial system. Exactly one year ago today, the IMF Executive Directors approved the proposal for the NAB with 25 initial country participants. These countries potentially committed about $49 billion in lines of credit to be made available on an emergency basis if IMF ordinary funds need to be supplemented in a crisis. The U.S. contribution of $3.5 billion is equivalent to 19.74 percent share of the NAB.

Second, the proposed $14.5 billion U.S. contribution to the IMF's capital base (about $200 billion)—composed of member-countries subscriptions or quotas—is necessary for two reasons. First, IMF usable quota resources available to member countries has dwindled to about $43 billion. With the current IMF Stand-By programs committed to Asia—Korea, $21 billion (total package $57 billion); Indonesia; $10 billion (total package $43 billion); Thailand, $4 billion (total $17 billion); Philippines, $1 billion—IMF resources will be nearly depleted.

These Asia commitments underscore the second reason for the quota increase. When the IMF was established in 1944, its quotas and capital base were much larger relative to the size of the global economy. As the global economy has expanded, the IMF's resources have not kept pace, thus eroding its financial effectiveness. If we want the IMF to continue its role as the world's principal monetary authority with the responsibility of stabilizing the international financial system, it must have sufficient resources to credibly do so.

THE RISKS OF U.S. INACTION FAR TRANSCEND THE RISKS OF ACTION

In determining how it will respond to the Asia crisis, the U.S. faces a pivotal choice. We can either use our central role in the international economic community to restore economic stability in Asia and safeguard the potential for economic growth there and at home. Or we can stand by as regional financial crisis blights the economic prospects of affected countries and their people, and simply hope it will not spread.

There are risks both in interceding, or in doing nothing, and letting the market dictate the consequences. I believe the risks of inaction are far greater.

Inaction would be contrary to what should be a central tenet of U.S. and IMF policies—halting the precipitous decline of Asian, and other regions', currencies. Continued currency depreciation will only exacerbate the deteriorating Asian domestic economies. Inevitably, that pain will spread to our own economy, in the form of lost export sales and investments, market turmoil, and increased unemployment. Absent intervention, competitive devaluations are much more likely to occur, doing further damage to the global trading system. If we are to protect that system, currency stabilization—and even appreciation of some of these currencies, which have plunged to all time lows against the dollar—is an imperative.

Inaction also carries the risk of spreading economic upheaval to other regions, including Latin America, Russia, and Eastern Europe. Many of these countries are already struggling to maintain economic growth and stability. In many cases, they have initiated reforms with IMF assistance, and are making serious progress. The spread of the Asian financial turmoil could prove enormously costly to them as well.

Inaction carries the risk not only of economic turmoil, but of significant social and political disruption. To a limited extent, this has already begun. A further economic free-fall could precipitate political and social chaos.

The social impact of declining economies is most severe, not on the affluent or well-connected, but on the middle-class and poor. To be sure, inappropriately austere economic stabilization programs—whether IMF-sponsored or not—can also hurt a broad spectrum of society, bringing lost jobs, closed businesses, higher interest rates, and lost purchasing power. But allowing an economy spiraling downward to take its natural course without remedial action could cause far, far greater hardship.

The final risk of inaction is the unacceptable abrogation of U.S. influence and leadership in Asia. The United States has argued that its geo-political and economic interests lie in considerable part in Asia. It has repeatedly sought to demonstrate its commitment in a variety of fora—such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation platform—despite Asia's perception of a U.S. preoccupation with Latin America and Europe. We can now either affirm our commitment to Asia, or give the lie to these previous efforts.

With U.S. leadership, international institutions have been established to respond to global military crises, such as the United Nations role in Iraq, Bosnia, etc. When global economic crises arise, the International Monetary Fund is the institution empowered by the international community to take action. Just as the United States expects the United Nations to take action when military threats to world peace emerge, we must do our part to support the International Monetary Fund—the only available institution that can act when the threats to global stability are economic. In a time of world economic crisis, the United States cannot default on its economic leadership.

THE POLITICAL CHALLENGE

Convincing the Congress and the American people that continued support for the International Monetary Fund is essential will be a difficult political challenge.

Our challenge is to make clear to U.S. taxpayers and public officials the economic consequences of not supporting the IMF. If the IMF does not intervene, U.S. taxpayers, business and labor will face serious consequences: further falling Asian currencies and a further rising U.S. dollar; a still greater tide of imports and larger trade deficits; and further falling stock-market prices, affecting pensions, savings, consumer behavior, etc.

Critics of the IMF—including both Democrats and Republicans in Congress—also contend that IMF programs are "excessively austere," with harsh impacts on citizens; that IMF program results are questionable, since countries return to the IMF for repeated reform efforts; and that IMF programs lack discernible development progress. Some of these criticisms are warranted. But legitimate complaints can be lodged against almost any institution. A narrow focus on these problems ignores the stark reality that we need some international institution to cope with stresses in the global financial system, and we need that institution now.

The IMF may not be a perfect tool, but it is the only tool we have. It needs fixing, but not junking. And we cannot fix the problems of the IMF in the midst of a crisis. We must use the IMF as constructively as possible to respond to the crisis in the short term. As the crisis abates, we can then accelerate the discussion and debate about the nature of the institutional changes that might be necessary in today's global economy.

The United States' responsibility does not end with its participation in resolving the current crisis. We must continue to exert our influence and leadership among the 182 countries of the IMF. As the world's largest economy, greatest military power, and foreign-policy leader, the United States has the potential to use both its voice and its vote to make the IMF a more effective international institution in the new century. But the United States cannot expect to shape an institution we abandon at the first sign of crisis.

In re-examining the IMF, the key questions we must consider are how to best shape the IMF for its role in a globalized society, and how the IMF should work with member countries when economic adjustments are needed. In the present financial crisis, the Fund's central tool is so-called conditionality, the IMF's ability to require specific reforms of the country seeking IMF support.

I believe there are at least five core elements of conditionality that the U.S. and IMF should promote in the context of the current crisis.

1. *Currency stabilization is critical.* The markets may have over-reacted to economic conditions in Asian countries with such extreme depreciation of currencies. The Asian economies are fundamentally sound, and with corrective policies they should rebound. Compared to the Latin American economic crisis in the 1980s, when macroeconomic indicators were negative, Asian economies have benefited for over a decade from strong GDP growth; have current-account surpluses or small deficits relative to GDP; have strong savings rates—35 percent in Korea; have had low inflation, most often between 4–9 percent; have high investment rates; and have no or relatively small public-sector debt problems. It is therefore critical that the IMF's primary goal should be to stabilize currencies. Surely, agreement should be reached to avoid competitive devaluations that will further destabilize the international financial and trading systems.

2. *The IMF must also seek vast improvements in the financial services sectors of countries using IMF Stand-By instruments.* The IMF should seek agreement from the affected countries to reform the laws and regulations governing their domestic financial institutions so that they meet generally accepted international standards. This would include laws to ensure adequate capital and reserves, adequate oversight, and standards for transparency. Lack of transparency is a contributing factor to the current Asian crisis—making unavailable accurate debt data, information regarding conglomerate-banking ties, etc.

I offer one caveat regarding this element of conditionality, however. We must demand significant improvement in the operation of financial institutions in the affected countries. However, we should not require troubled institutions to improve totally and immediately—or die. Nor should we judge the success of a reform program by the number of institutions closed. Such shock therapy could lead to a country's economic convulsion. What we do need is deliberate speed. And we need significant, measurable and constant improvement leading in a short but reasonable period of time to the standards we agree upon.

3. *The economies of these countries must be open.* The IMF must insist on economic reforms that open economies to both internal and external competition. Assisted countries must be open to competition, trade, investment, and capital flows—domestically and internationally. Small domestic businesses and international companies must not be excluded from open market competition because of collusion among conglomerates, governments, and financing institutions. The use of overt trade and investment barriers, or indirect regulatory schemes, to exclude outside competition

must not be tolerated. The IMF should insist on fundamental reforms that create the environment for open and fair competition.

Moreover, the U.S. should insist that the IMF put maximum pressure on other industrial countries to import more from Asia during this crisis. The U.S. cannot be expected to substantially increase its imports unless others are willing to bear a comparable burden.

4. *The economic prescriptions for each country must be appropriate to each country.* One size will not fit all. The IMF has been criticized by both the left and the right for imposing draconian fiscal policies and conditions that hurt the citizens of the country who are least able to cope with the consequences. These are difficult judgment calls. Sometimes, the IMF-imposed conditions have been well advised; other times, they may have been misguided. Each country must be dealt with differently.

Thailand was to have a budget surplus of 1 percent of GDP by the end of March 1998, but the continued decline of the baht forced Thai authorities to request adjustment of this IMF condition. Similarly, fiscal conditionality required Indonesia to reach a budget surplus of 1–1.5 percent of GDP and a current-account deficit reduced to 2 percent of GDP. This requirement was changed to a budget deficit of 1–1.5 percent in the agreement most recently announced by IMF Managing Director Camdessus on January 15. In Indonesia, the IMF admitted in a confidential report on January 13 that its tactics—in this case, 16 bank closings—backfired, and deepened rather than helped the crisis.

When developing fiscal requirements as part of the IMF conditionality, one formula cannot fit all countries. And the Asian case differs from most previous IMF Stand-By situations in that public profligacy has largely not been the source of the problem. Most governments have maintained a reasonable balance between expenditures and revenues.

Under such circumstances, the IMF must be careful not to impose tax increases or budget cuts that are not warranted. Although some officials may characterize a budget surplus requirement of 1.5 percent of GDP as "modest," the impact on citizens could be considerable. Consider the impact of cutting the U.S. budget deficit by 1.5 percent of GDP in five months. I doubt that we could comply, economically, socially, or politically.

We must all keep in mind that economies exist for people, not the other way around. The IMF should be especially cautious about imposing fiscal constraints on a government when the "fiscal imprudence" has been centered in the private sector, not only in the countries needing IMF support, but in the private financial sectors outside that country, whether in Japan and Germany—whose banks are most exposed in Asia—or in the United States.

5. *Finally, existing creditors should be expected to bear an appropriate financial burden.* While the U.S. cannot and should not attempt to legislate those IMF requirements, nonetheless that should be the policy of both the U.S. and IMF. Public perception that IMF assistance will privatize creditors' profits and socialize their losses will erode public and Congressional support faster than anything else. And that is understandable. It simply does not appear fair or legitimate to use IMF resources to hold banks and investors harmless, or to shield them from the consequences of poor judgment in loans and investments.

To a certain extent, assisting creditors is inherent in any policy of intervention. However, historically, the United States has insisted that creditors sustain meaningful sacrifices or losses as part of any rescue package, whether in the New York City rescue, the Chrysler loan guarantee, the Brady bonds, etc. Brady bonds, e.g., were deeply discounted in the secondary markets.

This is where the IMF can be very useful. The Fund can and should play a legitimate role as intermediary in private-sector creditor-debtor discussions. The IMF has the capacity—and experience—to serve as a facilitator and honest broker during debt negotiations. Nor would this be a new role for the Fund.

During the 1980's debt reschedulings with Latin America, the IMF did help broker the terms of the deals. In a situation such as Asia's, the IMF could play a similar role. In fact, public statements of support for that concept would assist countries, such as Korea, attempting to guarantee future loans. The application of this policy could significantly mitigate the "moral hazard" of intervention; and also help in garnering political support for U.S. participation in the IMF.

In the 1980s, I proposed establishing an International Debt Management Facility, and included it as part of the Omnibus Trade Act of 1986. Unfortunately, President Reagan vetoed that bill, in part because of that provision. The concept would have allowed for voluntary disposition by creditors of loans to heavily indebted sovereign borrowers in a way that would enable purchase at a discount in secondary markets. It may be timely to inject the principles of this original proposal into a new role for the IMF as a de facto referee in bankruptcy—a facilitator of a rearrangement of the debtor-creditor relationship.

POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE IMF—HIGH LEVEL OUTSIDE EFFORT REQUIRED

In the current political environment, it will not be easy to pass legislation that provides new funding for the IMF. To accomplish this, I believe that the White House must launch a concentrated political effort, as it has in past high-profile and critical legislative efforts. Eminent persons of both Democratic and Republican backgrounds should co-chair a campaign to pass IMF funding legislation. If possible, individuals such as former Treasury Secretaries James Baker, Nicholas Brady, Lloyd Bentsen and William Miller might be appropriate candidates.

REACHING OUT TO BOTH BUSINESS AND LABOR FOR SUPPORT

As part of its concentrated effort, the Administration must reach out to both the business and labor communities.

The deteriorating economies of Asia will necessarily impact U.S. corporations and the economic climate in which they operate. Many U.S. companies are already reducing their earnings projections because of anticipated fall-out from the Asia situation.

Countries in Asia that are currently in crisis both buy U.S. products and services, and compete to provide them. Economic instability and the depreciating currencies that accompany it will ultimately have an adverse impact on U.S. exports, increase the trade deficit, and put a brake on the economic growth we have been experiencing, all to the potential disadvantage of U.S. firms. It is in the business community's interest to get this crisis under control, and the Administration should seek strong and visible business support in that effort. That support must be significant, it must be broad-based, and it must be now—before opposition to IMF funding grows.

The Administration must also reach out to labor—either for overt support, or at least acquiescence. Labor has a divided approach to the IMF with respect to the Asia crisis. In the short term, labor is concerned that currency depreciation will cause export "dumping" in the U.S. as the only healthy economy that can take more goods. The U.S. trade deficit could soar to $300 billion this year as a result of the currency crisis. As we have seen with the weakening Japanese yen, the U.S. auto industry has suffered: Ford's sales to Japan have dropped 40 percent.

U.S. labor wants the IMF to stabilize currencies as a means to avoid job losses resulting from trade imbalances. The Administration must demonstrate to labor that it understands these concerns. It must publicly exhort other nations to accept Asian imports as well. The Administration must also make clear to labor that it will enforce U.S. trade laws and support "escape clause" action that would provide relief in the form of temporary tariffs or quotas if imports in particular industries flood the U.S. market.

Labor has a different outlook on the IMF in regard to medium-term issues, however. It opposes what it views as extreme IMF-imposed austerity that slows down economies, closes businesses, and creates mass unemployment in societies. U.S. workers ultimately suffer when U.S. businesses lose overseas contracts, exports dwindle, and stock markets fall. Already, the U.S. has lost orders—Boeing had four aircraft canceled—and Stone and Webster Engineering had their contract for a refinery project in Indonesia canceled. U.S. labor must be assured of our government's commitment to help find the proper balance between necessary reform and continued economic expansion.

The Administration must also take a more active and high-profile role in promoting international labor standards. To be sure, the Clinton Administration has done more than past Administrations to promote international labor rights. But it has not done nearly enough. The Administration should be promoting international labor rights in every forum possible, and at every opportunity.

I believe that we must either help the people of the world bring their standards up, or their lower standards will eventually bring ours down. For that very reason, commitment to an improvement of international labor standards is essential if we are to achieve any domestic political support for either the IMF or future trade agreements.

In pressing this issue, however, the U.S. would have far greater credibility if we first ratified more of the International Labor Organization's Conventions. The ILO has adopted 175 Conventions; the United States has ratified but 11. All but one of the 11 relates to

technical or maritime issues. By comparison, the typical member of the European Union has ratified 70 ILO Conventions. At a minimum, the President should propose that Congress ratify those Conventions relating to employment discrimination, child labor, the right to organize, and the right to bargain collectively. If the Administration demonstrated its commitment to international labor standards through specific strong actions, it would be better able to persuade labor to support its effort to fund the International Monetary Fund and future trade agreements.

CONCLUSION

It is no exaggeration to say that the U.S. reaction to the Asia crisis and to the IMF's pressing needs will be a defining moment in our global economic and political leadership. If we behave as we did when the League of Nations was being formed—hold back, quibble about the fine points, and eventually refuse to participate—we risk the same result. We may again see the fatal crippling of an international institution that is currently essential to the economic and political functioning of an increasingly interdependent world.

It is not just U.S. leadership in the abstract that is at stake. If the U.S. does not respond pro-actively and responsibly to this crisis, the economic well-being of U.S., Asian and other countries' citizens will be put in serious jeopardy as the global economic climate deteriorates. We live in an interdependent global economy in which the economic crises of other countries cannot be neatly compartmentalized and held at bay.

Politically, philosophically and practically, the U.S. and its citizens have a great deal to lose if we permit regional economic problems to reverberate around the globe unaddressed. It is incumbent upon this country's political, business and labor leadership to do everything possible to ensure the situation does not deteriorate to that point.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BUD SHUSTER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my fellow Pennsylvanian, colleague and good friend, Congressman BUD SHUSTER, on the occasion of his twenty-fifth year of excellent service in the United States House of Representatives as the Representative of the good people of the Ninth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. BUD was victorious in seeking his first term of office in November 1972 and the rest is history. As president of the Freshman Class of 1973, BUD SHUSTER brought to Congress his vision of economic prosperity for Central Pennsylvania and a true commitment to the nation's infrastructure. To this end, he has been the principal author of much of America's transportation legislation. On January 4, 1995, BUD became Chairman of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, the largest committee in the U.S. Congress.

I am honored to join in making this tribute his Congressional Staff, past and present, who share a common bond of great respect for their "boss" for his unparalleled service to his constituents, his skilled mastery of the legislative process, and for his dedicated mission to provide a better standard of living for Pennsylvania and for the United States of America. He is a leader of the first order whose ideas are clear and whose goals remain constant. He is a man whose strength sustains his colleagues and those staffers who have served him throughout these past twenty five years of American history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Congressman BUD SHUSTER, a native son of Pennsylvania, on his twenty five years of excellent service in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO TONY GRIFFIN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a great journalist, a community leader, a dear friend, but most importantly of all, a father and beloved husband.

Tony Griffin succumbed to cancer on December 30, 1997 only a few weeks after being diagnosed. It is rare that a single voice makes such an impact on so many people, in so many different ways. But Tony Griffin was just such an outstanding individual.

As news and public affairs director at WMUK in Kalamazoo, Michigan, he was all a reporter should be—aggressive, accurate and fair. An alumnus of Western Michigan University, Tony returned home to his alma mater to work at the university's National Public Radio station. He would have celebrated his 25th service anniversary with the station in March of this year.

Under his direction, WMUK won a wall full of prestigious awards, including recognition by the Voice of America, Michigan Associated Press, the Public Radio News Directors, and the Michigan Bar Association.

He built his career and reputation as a dogged, shrewd journalist. A healthy dose of skepticism coupled with voracious appetite for the truth wrapped around a sharp wit and always generous laugh. But the Tony we all knew and loved was more than just a journalist.

Tony took time-out on the other side of the microphone to serve his community. He lent his enormous skills and energies to the local Red Cross, Van Buren County Community Corrections, and a host of other organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Kalamazoo area. He truly cared about the community he represented.

Tony's leadership and dedication will be missed in each of these roles—but not nearly as much as in his most important one. Tony leaves behind a wonderful wife and beautiful daughter. Over the years, my family grew close to Tony's. Our daughters are just a few years apart. We spent a great deal of time talking about the joys of fatherhood and our hopes and dreams for our daughters.

Shortly before Tony passed away, the two of us had an unforgettable discussion at his bedside. But as it became painfully clear that the end was near, Tony kept his love of life and sense of humor until the very end.

He explained to me what would happen if all politicians and leaders had received the same diagnosis he had. It would be amazing how quickly the mountains we've built between ourselves would come down. We'd realize that the important things—family, community, friends—really outshine everything else. Tony's words are an important lesson for us all.

His memory will continue to live in each of us and grow stronger as the days go by. The greatest tribute we can pay to this man is to care for our community, to fulfill our civic duties, love and support our families, and to understand his lesson.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues today to share with me in recognizing the accomplishments of a dear friend, Tony Griffin.

CHALLENGING WARD VALLEY RADIOACTIVE DUMP

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, along with Senator BARBARA BOXER and others in California, I have long been raising strong concerns about Ward Valley, the proposed nuclear waste dump being promoted for southern California. Not only are there serious questions about the environmental safety of the proposed facility, but now legitimate questions have been raised about whether the dump is really required at all.

Interior Secretary Babbitt and Deputy Secretary Garamendi have been taking the prudent approach, ordering additional environmental reviews based on credible questions about the potential leakage of highly radioactive wastes that could transmigrate and contaminate the Colorado River. Nuclear waste experts have declared that there is no need to build expensive new waste dumps as there is adequate storage capacity for low level wastes in existing facilities.

The pressure to move forward is coming from Governor Wilson of California and several of the industries that are also adamant about building Ward Valley. But even executives of the company that wants to build and operate Ward Valley have told numerous congressional staffs that there is no national capacity shortage for low level nuclear wastes.

Public opinion in California is growing in opposition to the Ward Valley facility. I hope that my colleagues will read the editorial from the Contra Costa Times of January 26 that rightly calls for caution before proceeding with this costly and potentially hazardous facility.

[From the Contra Costa Times, Jan. 26, 1998]

USE CAUTION IN THE DESERT

Neither Gov. Wilson nor anti-nuclear activists likes the idea of more testing at Ward Valley. But the Interior Department's plan to find out just how dangerous radioactive wastes are to the water supply merely makes good sense.

The Interior Department last week approved the tests at Ward Valley, a 1000-acre

stretch of desert in the Mojave Desert, 20 miles west of the Colorado River and the town of Needles. For more than a decade there have been plans to dispose of so-called "low-level" radioactive wastes on 80 acres at the site. The waste would come from California, Arizona and North and South Dakota.

Low-level wastes include irradiated mice and gloves from research hospitals and pharmaceutical laboratories. There have been reports that Ward Valley also would get worn out parts from nuclear power plants, and materials with a "half-life" of 24,000 years. Currently nuclear waste is shipped for disposal at the nation's three dumps in Utah and South Carolina.

Before the dump can be approved, and used, the federal government must turn over the land to the state government. The Clinton administration has balked from the start at doing this, citing safety concerns. The Colorado River, they note, is a drinking source for millions of people.

Wilson claims enough tests have been run and that the site is safe. Clinton, noting leaks at dumps in Nevada, wants to be sure. His administration particularly wants to be convinced that the waste won't leach into groundwater 650 feet below the surface, and thence to the river. That is what the new tests would ascertain.

While the discussion over safety has been burbling, information has surfaced that there may no longer be a need for Ward Valley, or for similar sites proposed for Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas. A study by University of Nebraska economist Gregory Hayden asserts that there has been a 16-year decline in the volume of low level nuclear waste being disposed of in current dumps, and that their profitability would be threatened by Ward Valley. Some proponents of the dump have questioned Hayden's research.

In addition, new technology allowing for wastes to be compressed has increased storage capacity at Utah and South Carolina.

Given all these questions, it is hardly out of line to let the new tests proceed. And while the tests are going forth, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the California Democrat who is the desert's greatest friend in Congress, has called for studies to see if Ward Valley is necessary at all. That, too, is prudent, before the state spends a ton of money developing it.

Ward Valley may yet end up as a site for disposing of nuclear waste. If it does, let's make sure that the materials to be deposited there pose no threat. Twenty-four thousand years is a long time for a water supply to be contaminated.

FUND-RAISING SCANDAL

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask his colleagues to consider carefully the following editorial from the December 4, 1997, edition of the *Omaha World-Herald*, entitled "Probe of Fund-Raising Scandal Snuffed on Narrowest Grounds."

PROBE OF FUND-RAISING SCANDAL SNUFFED ON NARROWEST GROUNDS

Attorney General Janet Reno used astonishingly narrow grounds to excuse her decision not to seek an independent counsel in the White House fund-raising scandal.

Even Louis Freeh, a former federal judge who is Ms. Reno's FBI director, urged the attorney general in effect to take off her political blinders and acknowledge the appearance of wrongdoing.

Ms. Reno chose to focus on campaign fund-raising phone calls that President Clinton and Vice President Gore made from the White House. She said the money raised by those calls did not go directly to the Clinton-Gore 1996 re-election campaign. Her tortured reasoning is that the money went to the Democratic National Committee for general political use and, therefore, was not covered by the law prohibiting candidates from raising campaign funds on federal property.

What about DNC documents indicating that significant chunks of the money Gore raised were transferred to his campaign? Never mind, says Ms. Reno; the vice president didn't know about that. Even on the narrow grounds that Ms. Reno used as a basis for her decision, her judgment is suspect.

An independent counsel—not a Clinton appointee—ought to determine what the vice president knew.

By limiting her attention to the narrow issue of the White House telephones, Ms. Reno ignored Clinton's role in coffees, sleepovers and the vast web of donors set up by John Haung, Charlie Trie and other operatives with ties to the Lippo group and the government of China.

She ignored the videotape on which Clinton explained to donors how they could get around limitations on direct contributions by giving unlimited amounts to the DNC. Ms. Reno may be the only person in the nation who still believes that the Clinton-Gore campaign kept its required legal distance from the DNC.

Ms. Reno also ignored serious allegations of wrongdoing involving the White House China connection. There are indications that the Chinese government had a purpose in using Huang, among others, to make illegal campaign contributions to the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign. Someone needs to find out what the Chinese expected in return.

Chinese intelligence agents boasted about "thwarting" a Senate investigation headed by Tennessee Republican Fred Thompson, who had set out to expose Chinese involvement in the '96 campaign. Lack of cooperation by the White House, the FBI and the Justice Department foiled the Thompson committee's inquiry.

Yet Ms. Reno sees no need for independent review—no need, apparently, to look at other serious allegations, including:

Whether the DNC arranged illegal foreign donations to then-Teamsters President Ron Carey in return for the Teamsters' financial and political support of Clinton-Gore '96.

Whether the White House shook down Indian tribes in Oklahoma seeking the return of tribal lands and overturned Interior Department approval of an Indian casino project along the Wisconsin-Minnesota border because tribes that already operated casinos in the area gave the DNC $300,000.

Whether the DNC funneled $32 million to state parties with orders to spend it on the Clinton-Gore campaign, thereby exceeding federal campaign spending limits.

Whether Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary met with a delegation of Chinese businessmen in return for a $25,000 contribution to the charity of her choice.

Until The Washington Post wrote about it, Ms. Reno's staff did not know that money raised from the vice president's office had been spent directly on the vice president's campaign. Yet Ms. Reno focused only on the telephones. Her unfortunate decision left the American people with no confidence that the fund-raising scandal will ever be subjected to the scrutiny it deserves.

A SALUTE TO ADMIRAL MARSHA EVANS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rear Admiral Marsha J. Evans, a remarkable woman who served for the past two years as Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California before her recent retirement from the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Evans has accumulated a long and distinguished military career. In addition to her position as Superintendent, Admiral Evans' leadership experience includes command of the Naval Station at Treasure Island, Commander of Navy Recruiting Command, interim director of the Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Executive Officer at Recruit Training Command, and Commanding Officer at the Naval Technical Training Center. She has also served at the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and the office of the Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces Europe. Her extensive government experience includes serving as executive secretary and special assistant for the Secretary of the Treasury under President Carter, and serving as Deputy Director of the President Reagan's Commission on White House Fellowships.

Admiral Evans was not only a pioneer for women in the military, but a strong advocate for the needs and concerns of women. In addition to being the first (?) woman to reach the rank of Admiral, she was also the first female surface assignments officer in the Bureau of Naval Personnel. She was also active in gender-related issues, having served as Executive Director of Standing Committee on Military and Civilian Women in the Navy, chairing the Women Midshipmen Study Group in the 1980's, and serving on the 1987 Navy's Women's Study.

In September 1995, the Naval Postgraduate School was fortunate to have Admiral Evans appointed as Superintendent, and she did not disappoint. Under her leadership, the school further strengthened and developed its academic mission. It began exploring important new fields, such as how to prevent and contain the use of weapons of mass destruction, and expanded such programs as its successful international officer exchange program at the Center for Civil-Military Relations.

Most recently, under Admiral Evans' direction the Naval Postgraduate School hosted a military-wide conference on Professional Military Education, which successfully brought together leading military and civilian educators and policy-makers from around the country to discuss how best to educate our soldiers to fight the conflicts of the future.

Admiral Evans is a remarkable leader and pioneer, and I am sorry to see her depart as

Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School. The Navy is losing a fine officer and outstanding individual, and her presence will be greatly missed. I wish her the best in her new endeavors, and urge other young, aspiring women and men in the military to look to Admiral Evans' great service as a model for success and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN GASKA

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the outstanding career and accomplishments of Susan Gaska who is retiring after thirteen years as Chief Executive Officer of the Western New York chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association. Ms. Gaska's many years of service have had a profound effect not only on the YWCA but on the entire Western New York Community.

Through her diligent, forthright leadership, Susan brought the YWCA from the brink of bankruptcy in 1986 to a full service organization with a $5 million operating budget in 1998. Although this is a remarkable accomplishment in itself, it tells only part of the story.

The YWCA of Western New York was established in 1870 and traditionally served the community as a temporary shelter for women. But, Susan Gaska envisioned a YWCA that would empower women who are struggling with domestic violence, single parenthood, and illness by giving them long-term solutions to immediate problems such as child care, housing, and health care. To that end Susan has been in the forefront of developing workable solutions to these difficult problems that so many women face every day.

Thanks to seven years of coalition building, fund-raising, needs assessment and planning under Susan's leadership the YWCA now provides safe, affordable day care to over 1,000 children per day. Three notable day care clinics have been established, one each at the County and State Supreme Court building, and at Erie County Medical and Children's Hospital. These centers grant mothers peace of mind, secure in the knowledge that their children are safe and well cared for.

In addition, the YWCA has become an innovator in establishing the first transitional housing program in our area. This program helps move women who are victims of domestic abuse from shelters to apartments operated by the YWCA, on a case-managed basis. Susan has also worked to secure government funds to turn former school 42 in Buffalo into a multi-generational, multicultural facility. That building has been renovated to accommodate 65 low-income housing units designed for senior citizens, as well as space for elder care, child care and much-needed after school programs.

Susan also took the initiative to help establish EncorePlus, a no-cost recovery program for women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer. In addition, working with local hospitals, Susan was able to establish free diagnostic exams for those women aged 40 and over who have little or no insurance. She has also been personally involved in fighting discrimination, founding the YWCA Racial Justice Committee and courageously offering space in the YWCA to the Gay and Bisexual Youth services organization.

These accomplishments alone are worthy of high praise, but Susan Gaska's efforts have extended into the political realm as well. More than 216 women have graduated from the Institute for Public Leadership, designed by Susan to teach political skills to women. Twenty-three of the Institute's graduates have won public office and many more are likely to do so in the years do come.

I am pleased to join the YWCA and the people of Western New York to honor the extraordinary career of Susan Gaska, a women who made a difference in our community and in the lives of countless young women who came to the Y for help. She helped to change their lives and our community for the better. In short, Susan has shown us what good works can be accomplished with vision, commitment, and leadership, Mr. Speaker, I commend the career and achievement of Susan Gaska to the attention of all Members of the House.

TRIBUTE TO PATTY BRISSENDEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of Patty Brissenden. I have personally known Patty for 17 years. Patty was one of my first employees when I was elected to the California State Assembly in 1980. Her energy, dedication and follow-through on issues in Santa Cruz county were invaluable.

Having seen first hand her charismatic dedication, it was not surprising that she was active in many issues. During her time with me Patty successfully worked on organic food legislation, steel jaw traps legislation, extended Medi-Cal for individuals with Multiple Sclerosis, elders in residence at U.C. Santa Cruz, petition to ban off shore oil, and highway 17 safety barriers. In the office Patty set high standards for responsiveness, casework management, and office outreach.

Patty organized the Bill Clinton/Al Gore (1992 and 1996) presidential campaign for Alpine County and co-founded the Sierra Nevada Alliance. As an owner of Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley, in the Sierra Nevadas, Patty has helped transform the former roadside inn to a widely-acclaimed travel destination. She is a frequent presenter at the professional Association of Innkeepers International on topics of eco-tourism, health care, and destination marketing.

Patty and I remain friends and she continues to work with me on issues such as; logging, tourism, environment, and conservation. In all of her efforts, Patty demonstrates compassion, advocacy for the individual in need, a sense of justice and the understanding that problems can be solved by bringing diverse groups together to work on a solution. Today I celebrate Patty's 50th birthday by wishing her continued happiness and success.

HONORING SHIRLEY GRALLA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the friends and family of the Milton and Shirley Gralla family as they come together to celebrate Shirley being awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Yeshiva University.

Shirley Gralla's story is that of a child of Eastern European Jewish immigrant parents who came to America. Through her many talents, keen insight and most compassionate nature, Shirley has succeeded in giving aid and hope to those people seeking to come to America and experience the blessings of freedom and prosperity that she has experienced. For more than a decade Shirley Gralla has been recognized as an international leader in assisting refugee families trapped in the former Soviet Union. More recently, Shirley Gralla has become immersed in a comprehensive approach to provide Jewish education and communal services for such refugee families in the United States.

Mrs. Gralla has striven mightily to provide the emotional stability and compassion these people need to establish new and successful lives in America. In conjunction with her husband Milton, a Trustee of Yeshiva University, Mrs. Gralla has initiated a "Celebration of Religious Freedom," enabling Soviet Jewish couples who have immigrated to the United States to be remarried in traditional religious ceremonies denied them under the Communist regime. These ceremonies have taken place throughout the United States as well as Canada and Israel.

Shirley Gralla has consistently demonstrated that she can not only develop dynamic and far-reaching programs, but also roll up her sleeves and join in making things happen. In 1985, with her husband Milton, they sponsored a "Freedom Flight" of Soviet Jews from Bucharest to Israel and personally accompanied these refugees aboard the plane. As more and more Eastern European Jewish emigres obtained their freedom through the demise of the Soviet Union, Mrs. Gralla has extended her efforts and resources to assist and help stabilize these people through educational support programs at Yeshiva University and elsewhere. The Grallas have recently endowed a scholarship fund at Yeshiva University for such students. In addition, Mrs. Gralla and her husband have become Yeshiva University Benefactors by endowing the Gralla Family Research Center for Brain Disorders at the University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

It is in the truest tradition of our great country that we give of ourselves freely to assist others. Shirley Gralla has taken this timeless tradition and filled the lives of countless people with love, hope, stability and a realization that even in the darkest moments of one's being there will always be hope. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me in honoring this great woman.

TRIBUTE TO SANTO SCRUFARI

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a great Western New Yorker, Santo Salvatore Scrufari. As a laborer, carpenter, foreman, and superintendent, Santo has played a critical role in enriching the economy of Western New York. As an active member and an officer of Local 280 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America since 1964, Santo has spent decades helping his fellow union members and improving the lives of working families throughout the region. And finally, as my cousin, Santo has proven to be a trusted friend and family member.

The new year marked the retirement of Santo Scrufari, bringing to a close over 35 years of distinguished service. Santo's career began in 1962, as a laborer for the Scrufari Construction Company. Between 1962 and 1970, he quickly moved through the ranks, becoming an apprentice carpenter, then graduating to journeyman carpenter, and finally becoming a carpenter foreman. In 1970, Santo moved to the Smith Brothers Construction Company, where he served as a superintendent through 1979. Finally, Santo served as a general superintendent for the Peter Scrufari Company from 1979 through 1984.

These positions allowed Santo to play an important role in the construction or renovation of several major projects in our community. These building projects, which have all had a major impact on Western New York, include the North Tonawanda Library, Niagara University, the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, the Wheatfield Salvage Treatment Plant, the Channel 29 TV Station, and several malls, departments stores, and supermarkets.

But this tells only part of the Santo Scrufari story, for he has also been an active and influential union member for well over 30 years. Santo first joined Local 280 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America in September 1964, and quickly distinguished himself as a champion of workers' rights. Throughout his tenure as a proud union man, Santo held numerous positions of great importance to the union and its members. From serving as Secretary of the Apprenticeship Committee, then as Vice President, and finally as President of Local 280, Santo has touched the lives of hundreds of workers and, in turn, their families.

Santo's union service culminated in 1996, when he was appointed as the Director of Construction Organizing for the Western New York Regional Council of the Carpenters Union. In this and all other positions that Santo has held, he has proven to be a staunch defender of workplace fairness and safety, and other fundamental worker rights that we now take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has come into contact with Santo Scrufari can attest to his dedication to the labor movement. Indeed, he will be sorely missed. As both his Congressman and his cousin, I would like to offer my very best wishes to Santo and his wonderful wife, Charlene, for a happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD MARCUS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who devoted his life to this country, his community, and his family. Howard Marcus's commitment to service began when he joined Peace Corps and continued throughout his life with an active involvement in local sports. He was a coach, a fundraiser, and a friend.

Howard was a partner with Newman & Marcus & Clarenback, Attorneys at Law. He obtained his law degree from the Brooklyn Law School, and his undergraduate degree from Hofstra University. He has served the community in innumerable ways for the past twenty years.

Howard was a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia from 1967–68, where he devoted a year of his life to helping the poor help themselves. Howard's service will be always be remembered in Colombia by those he touched. We on the Central Coast will forever remember and be thankful for the influence his service had on him. As happens with most Peace Corps Volunteers, Howard returned to the United States with a renewed and much more ardent desire to help his fellow human and make a difference in the community in which he lived.

Howard was the author of "Basketball Basics", which was written from his love for the sport. Howard was recently head coach for the Soquel High School and Branciforte Jr. High School basketball teams, and a mentor to the students that he coached. He provided them with basic skills, but more importantly, he gave them a sense of pride and self-esteem.

Howard, a sports enthusiast, planned many of the fund-raising events for local sports. He was an active member of the booster club and helped get financing for the all-weather track at Soquel High School. He also founded the Santa Cruz Track Club, where he coached, and helped organize the wharf-to-wharf race which helps sponsor high school sports activities.

Howard will be missed by all those who admired and loved him. His community benefited greatly from his unique ability to coach and to care. Our hearts go out to the Marcus Family.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN E. MOSS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join today with my colleagues in tribute to one of the giants of the House of Representatives, John E. Moss.

He retired from his career in this body in 1978. But the inspiration he gave to the members who learned at his side is with us still.

I was privileged to begin my career in Congress as a member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of what was then the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. John Moss chaired that Subcommittee. He taught us all what tough, fair, tenacious, and totally professional investigatory work could be. He used his power to make Government programs and bureaucracy do what they were supposed to do: carry out the laws and serve the public. And he did it whether the cause was popular or not, embarassing to the Administration or his own party or not, whether he had to stand alone or not.

I particularly remember some of the early work he did around the issues of nursing home conditions, unnecessary surgery, and abuses by prepaid health plans. They were trailblazers.

We all know of the commitment and achievements of John Moss to open up government information to ordinary citizens through the Freedom of Information Act. We know of his achievements in the fields of product safety and consumer protection. But perhaps not so widely known is the influence his example and integrity had on so many other Members and staff. Mike Lemov, who served as his Chief Counsel on Oversight, said recently in a tribute to his Chairman that John Moss invariably championed the underdog, and relished uphill fights. And that sums him up as well as any words could. He was in many ways, for so many of us, the conscience of the House.

If it needed to be done for the little guy, he was ready to do it. If he needed to take on big business or big government, the Defense Department or the drug companies, he was there. And he did it with thorough, effective, untiring work.

I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity to serve with him. He has been gone from this House for many years, but the public that he championed continues to benefit because of his work and accomplishments. We would all be proud to leave such a legacy.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ILA METTEE-MCCUTCHON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to Colonel Ila Mettee-McCutchon, the Commander of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and Presidio of Monterey, and Commandant of DLIFLC, on the occasion of her retirement from the U.S. Army. Colonel Mettee-McCutchon has been an inspiration to all during her 26-year career in the armed forces, and her positions of successive command only further confirm her valued leadership within the Army and of the respect shown to her by the men and women serving under her command.

Colonel Mettee-McCutchon is herself an esteemed graduate of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. She first earned both a B.A. and an M.S. in clinical psychology from Auburn University which prepared her well for her exceptional career in

military intelligence. Later, she completed the WAC (Women's Army Corps) Officer Basic Course and the Military Intelligence Officer Advanced Course, and then graduated from the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College, true marks of distinction in the career of any military officer.

For the first three years following Colonel Mettee-McCutchon's commissioning in 1971, she served as a psychologist at the Presidio of San Francisco responsible for drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation. After displaying compassion and savvy in that assignment, she was transferred in 1974 to the Military Intelligence Branch and appointed a Regular Army Officer of Military Intelligence, which was the beginning of her extraordinary career in the field of military intelligence. Colonel Mettee-McCutchon was initially a strategic analyst at Fort Bragg, before moving up to the following posts: Commander, Headquarters and Operations Company, 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Bragg; Chief, Joint Intelligence Center, U.S. Southern Command Panama; Commander, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Meade; and Staffer in the Intelligence Division, International Military Staff of NATO, at NATO Headquarters, Brussels. Because of her superb record of accomplishment in these critical intelligence posts, she was chosen to be Commander of the Garrison at the Presidio of Monterey in October, 1994.

Colonel Mettee-McCutchon has earned numerous awards during her career including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters. She is married to John R. McCutchon, Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry (Retired), and has one child, Erin T. Mettee-McCutchon. I am sure everyone who knows Colonel Mettee-McCutchon joins me in recognizing her career of exemplary service to her country, and expressing heartfelt wishes for a happy retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1998 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG STAFF EXCHANGE

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the US Congress and the German Parliament have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and convey Members' views on issues of mutual concern.

A staff delegation from the United States Congress will be chosen to visit Germany March 22 to April 4 of this year. During the 2-week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag members, Bundestag party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Cultural activities and a weekend visit in a Bundestag Member's district will complete the schedule.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for 3 weeks this summer. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of congressional Members.

The Congress-Bundestag exchange is highly regarded in Germany and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. The ongoing situation in Bosnia, the future expansion of NATO and the proposed expansion of the European Union, as well as plans for a single currency will make this year's exchange particularly relevant.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff members who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag sends senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern in Germany and the United States such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, immigration, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two Bundestag staffers in their Member's district over the Fourth of July break, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants will be selected by a committee composed of U.S. Information Agency personnel and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state why they believe they are qualified and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated. Applications may be sent to Kathie Scarrah at 316 Hart Senate Building by Thursday, February 12.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD D. ISAAC

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the retirement of a friend of all veterans, and the only director the West Palm Beach DVA Medical Center has ever known, Mr. Richard D. Isaac.

A graduate of Morehead State University and an Army veteran, Rich began his 25-year Department of Veterans Affairs career in his hometown of Pittsburgh as a recreational therapist. With hard work, a professional attitude and a good sense of humor, he served in ten assignments of increasing responsibility including service as the Associate Director at VAMC in Lake City, FL, and as the Associated Deputy Regional Director at the Southeast Region Field Office in Gainesville, FL.

In 1989, Rich was appointed as the director of the new VA Medical Center to be constructed in Palm Beach County, Florida. During the design phase of the medical center, Rich was charged with the daunting tasks of coordinating the efforts of regional clinical and administrative advisors who provided input to architects in the design of each department, as well as evaluating and implementing the overall design to assure quality care for every veteran.

Rich brought the 265-bed medical center and extended care facility to life, with its 800,000 square feet of space, nearly 1600 employees and $110 million annual budget, and has given the veterans of South Florida one of the most efficient, technologically-advanced and caring medical facilities in the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to thank Richard D. Isaac for his many years of service to the dedicated veterans across our nation. I wish him and his wife, Marie, many enjoyable and healthy years in the mountains of Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT G. GARD, JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of California's Central Coast. Dr. Robert G. Gard, Jr. began a lifetime commitment to public service with a distinguished military career and went on to become a leading advocate for one of Central California's most prized institutions, the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Bob will retire January 30, and he will be deeply missed.

Lt. Gen. Gard served in the U.S. Army not only at the Department of Defense, but in Germany, Korea and Vietnam as well. As commanding general, he oversaw Fort Ord's transition from an Army training center to a light infantry division in the 1970s. Following that success he was brought back to Washington once again, where his expertise led him to become the commanding general of the Military Personnel Center and president of the National Defense University.

After retiring in 1982, Dr. Gard put his international experience to use in the civilian world. Following his service with American and Johns Hopkins universities, the Monterey Institute of International Studies was both savvy and fortunate enough to land Dr. Gard as its President, a post he has filled superbly for over a decade.

Located in California's beautiful Monterey, the Language Capital of the World, the institute provides training in 24 languages and comprises one-fourth of the nation's advanced foreign language training. During Dr. Gard's tenure, the institute has seen a 62 percent increase in student enrollment, a tripling of its endowment and a broadening of its academic and graduate programs like never before.

Under his leadership, MIIS' Center for Non-Proliferation Studies has developed a worldwide reputation as the source of information on the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and is used as a resource by national policy-makers in Congress, the CIA and other federal agencies.

Dr. Gard is a vocal advocate for such humanitarian causes as the elimination of anti-personnel landmines. He has openly pointed to the weapons' military insignificance and the need to prevent further needless destruction of innocent human life by banning them from all future use.

MIIS is a better institution under Dr. Gard's leadership. While Bob's contributions will remain forever, we will surely miss him. On behalf of the constituents of the 17th district, I offer our heartfelt thanks and our best retirement wishes to a true American hero.

FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 1998, Dr. Benjamin Major, M.D., M.P.H., will be honored for over 40 years of volunteer service to Bay Area communities. A specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Major has over thirty-five years of experience in practice, with service in not only the United States, but in Africa as well. Dr. Major also possesses a widely varied background in working with private and international agencies providing such services as health planning, project management and manpower development.

From 1941–1943, Dr. Major attended Fisk University in Tennessee, to begin his pre-medical education. He then went on to Meharry Medical College in 1946, also located in Tennessee. From 1946–1951, Dr. Major entered into an internship and residency program in obstetrics and gynecology in the City Hospital System in St. Louis, Missouri. He then completed a Master of Public Health Degree in Health/Family Planning at the California School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley.

Over his distinguished career, Dr. Major has utilized his knowledge of many different areas of medicine in behalf of the community. These experiences include work as an Instructor and Lecturer in Behavioral and Biomedical Aspects of Family Planning; an Instructor in International Health Programs; an Instructor in Health Education (Sex and Family Life), and; by providing clinical training in MCH/FP for African midwives as part of an ongoing project that was started at Meharry College in Tennessee. Dr. Major has generously donated his time and skills to many organizations and hospitals. A principle beneficiary of Dr. Major's expertise has been Planned Parenthood, where he has volunteered for many years with such duties as comprehensive family planning, public health, pre-natal care, infant care and abortion education.

Dr. Major has greatly contributed to the health and well-being of many communities, not only at home but abroad as well. Dr. Major is also to be commended on his many years of accomplishments, and his commitment to teaching others less fortunate.

I congratulate him and thank him for his many years of valuable service, and commend his service to the attention of my colleagues.

SHREWD ADVICE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, one of our former colleagues, Mike Barnes of Maryland, has recently published an essay in the Baltimore Sun in which he describes two recent trips to South Korea—the first in October, before the worst of the financial crisis took hold in Korea, the second two months later, after it had become apparent how severely hit South Korea would be by the economic turmoil that has rocked Asia in recent months.

Mr. Barnes argues that it is very much in America's interest to help South Korea through the current financial crisis. Moreover, he insists, all the fundamentals are present in Korea for a full recovery.

Mr. Speaker, because of our own stake in the Asian crisis, and because we have an immense interest in seeing South Korea weather its current problems, I ask that Mr. Barnes' essay be reprinted in the RECORD.

SOUTH KOREAN 'TIGER' IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST

Recently, the Center for National Policy has sponsored trips to two very different countries in Asia. Each time, the destination was South Korea.

In October, we visited a dynamic Asian "tiger" with a booming stock market, huge multinational corporations and a population of 70 million looking forward to 1998 with expectations of improved economic performance.

Late last month, we visited a country in deep emotional depression brought on by the sudden collapse of banks, securities firms, major construction and manufacturing conglomerates and the stock market. Almost overnight, South Korea's currency—the won—lost more than 60 percent of its value. The government was forced to seek emergency assistance from the International Monetary Fund to stave off national bankruptcy. Now, massive job layoffs are inevitable in a society that once regarded them as unthinkable.

Signs of the new economic reality were everywhere. Seoul's infamous traffic jams have virtually disappeared. Stores, buses, airplanes were all half-empty at the height of the holiday season. Prices have skyrocketed for anything that must be imported, such as heating fuel, which has doubled in cost at the beginning of a tough Korean winter. The news media gave wide coverage to tragic stories such as that of the woman who leaped to her death from an apartment window to avoid another argument with her husband over the family's financial difficulties.

Equally dramatic is the change in Korea's politics. The Dec. 18 election of longtime opposition leader and democratic activist Kim Dae Jung as president can only be compared with that of Vaclav Havel in the Czech Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti or Nelson Mandela in South Africa. In October, we were told it was impossible for Kim to win because he could never appeal to voters outside his rural home province of North Cholla. But he won a narrow victory over two candidates from the ruling party by carrying urban districts, including the capital city of Seoul.

The election of Kim to South Korea's "Blue House" is extraordinary by any measure. When I last met him in 1985, I was a congressman from Maryland serving on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and he was in exile in the United States from a repressive military regime that repeatedly attempted to assassinate him. When they kidnapped him in Japan, only an intense international outcry prevented his murder at the hands of his captors. His ultimate return to Korea was highlighted by an attack of government thugs at the airport and his immediate arrest.

Since his election, Kim has been making the right moves to give Koreans and the world confidence that the economic and political future will be better. He has recognized the need for restructuring Korea's economy in accordance with IMF mandates, called for direct dialogue with North Korea and reached out to domestic political opponents by allowing lame duck President Kim Young Sam to pardon two former military dictators (those responsible for his own persecution). The president-elect has successfully urged the Korean National Assembly to pass key financial reform bills that give the Central Bank more independence in monetary policy, unifies financial sector regulatory bodies and improves the openness of corporate finances by forcing companies to issue consolidated financial accounts. He also has called for reform of labor laws that will permit layoffs for the first time in Korea, despite the strong support he received from labor unions in his campaign.

Kim's chief of staff, Congressman Yoo Jae Gun, told us that the president-elect's team was surprised at the extent of the economic disaster they were inheriting from the outgoing administration. Nonetheless, they are ready, he said, to take the steps necessary to turn around the economy as quickly as possible.

The Korean economic crisis might have hit with surprising suddenness, but it was many years in formation. In essence, Korean corporate giants financed their global expansion by borrowing from international investors eager to ride the success of the "Korean Miracle." Virtually all of the Korean corporate families, or "chaebols," had accumulated large debts as they circled the world finding new markets for Korean products and manufacturing facilities.

When the "Asian economic flu" began to spread from Thailand through Indonesia to South Korea, foreign lenders, principally New York banks, became nervous and began to demand repayment of loans. When the value of the won dropped precipitously, timely repayment became impossible for many Korean companies. Initially, the Korean government sought to bolster the economy through infusions of new capital, but national reserves of foreign currency were much lower than anyone had expected. As this became apparent to domestic and international observers, a panic ensued that caused the collapse of the Korean stock market and further devaluation of the won. Even the announcement by the IMF of a $57 billion bailout of South Korea was not enough to stem the panic for more than a couple of days.

The international community recently responded with new commitments to roll over

and extend loans to Korean borrowers. International banks have committed new funds that soon will be available to Korean companies. It is hoped that these steps will be sufficient to renew confidence in the Korean economy as the country prepares for Kim's inauguration Feb. 25.

South Korea's success is important to the United States, as Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has demonstrated by helping marshal international support for Seoul's markets. Not only is Korea a key trading partner, but we have 37,000 troops guarding the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. Weakness in the south might be misinterpreted in the north as an opportunity to threaten the security of the peninsula.

As one who has closely observed Mexico's recovery from its own recent "peso crisis," I would expect that Korea can rebound even more rapidly. Korea has a strong industrial base, an educated and committed work force, one of the highest rates of saving in the world and a remarkable sense of national unity. Certainly the courage and determination of the new leadership has been proven during the decades of struggle to bring democracy to the country. It is very clearly in the United States' best interest to help them succeed.

OBITUARY FOR WILMA McCANN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the 1996 Monterey County Veteran of the year. Wilma McCann, a resident of Salinas, California has had a long established career in the military service department.

Ms. McCann began her profession in the Navy as part of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service program during World War II. She was active in local veterans affairs and served for two years as the President of "Sea Otter WAVES," a local chapter of WAVES international. She truly was a woman with pioneer spirit.

Moving to Salinas 7 years ago, Ms. McCann served as the vice president of the Monterey County United Veterans Council and on the Monterey County Veterans Advisory Commission. Working with the Women in Military Service for America, she was field representative and state chairperson for California donations.

Ms. McCann has lived her life with others in mind. My thoughts are with her husband, sons, and grandchildren.

RETIREMENT OF LEE G. MEYER

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, Lee G. Meyer, Deputy Director of the Phillips Laboratory, Propulsion Directorate at Edwards Air Force Base has retired. His departure means our nation will lose 30 years of exceptional experience and knowledge of rocket propulsion systems.

For those unfamiliar with the Directorate, it is a little-known but vital part of Edwards Air Force Base. Over two hundred military and civilian personnel work at remote facilities to make efficient, dependable rocket propulsion technologies available to our military and space programs. In fact, it would be hard for us to image the events of the last thirty years without the technologies these people helped make available. The giant rocket motor test standards operated by the Directorate, for example, tested both the Saturn V boosters that took Americans into space and ballistic missile technologies that were so critical to this nation's security during the Cold War. Lee Meyer was an essential part of these efforts.

Lee's over three decades of work at the Laboratory have contributed greatly to the lab's and our nation's achievements. He started working at Edwards in 1963 as an Air Force officer and remained there for the rest of his career as a civilian Air Force employee. During that time, Lee Meyer worked on all kinds of innovative propulsion technologies and was selected to manage important projects such as the concept definition for the proposed Small ICBM as the Advanced Launch System program which will continue to explore the next generation of space launch technologies.

Lee Meyer's retirement will mean the loss of years of knowledge and experience to his colleagues and to the nation. Given the service he has performed for the United States, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking him for being an important part of our nation's defense.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ED STROTHER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life time achievements of Granville County Commissioner Robert Ed Strother. Commissioner Strother died recently at the age of seventy-three. He touched countless lives in his community of Granville County as a devoted educator and public servant.

Commissioner Strother's extensive career as an educator included serving as a school principal, county superintendent, and holding several high-ranking positions in the Department of Public Instruction and the Division of Community Colleges. Throughout his many positions as an educator from Wilton High School basketball coach to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, one thing remained constant for Strother: maintaining children as the top priority. He always had time to listen to a child.

Since 1989, Commissioner Strother served as a Granville County Commissioner serving twice as Chairman of the Board. He represented his district well having the courage to fight on issues that were important to his community. His colleagues on the Board valued his ability to keep the Granville community informed on statewide issues. Commissioner Alligood recalls, "He loved walking the halls of the legislature better than anybody I've ever seen. He kept us all informed of what was going on in Raleigh and how it affected local government." Strother's thoughtful manner and quick wit opened doors for him throughout North Carolina and he incorporated his experiences through the state into his service to the community.

I first met Commissioner Strother while I served as Chairman of the North Carolina House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. He would walk the halls "buttonholing" legislators almost weekly. Strother would stop in my office and remind me of the needs of his people in Granville County and of all the children in our public schools and community college system.

I commend Commissioner Strother's contributions to Granville County and throughout North Carolina. I feel fortunate to have known Robert Ed Strother as a colleague in education and public service, and I am proud to have had him as a friend. Strother was a true patriot in every sense of the word. Commissioner Strother's legacy will live on in the lives of children he instructed and the members of the Granville community whose lives are richer for having known him. His legacy also lives on through many people who never knew him, but he made their lives better because he cared.

TRIBUTE TO FRIEDY B. HEISLER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who continually worked to nurture and to heal, not only the human body but the human spirit and soul as well. Dr. Friedy B. Heisler passed away last July in her Carmel Highlands home.

Born, Sept. 16, 1900, in Switzerland, she graduated from the College of Neuchatel before immigrating to Chicago in 1924. Studying at the University of Illinois Medical School, Dr. Heisler finished her medical residency in psychiatry before opening a private practice in Chicago.

Upon meeting her husband Francis, a civil rights and trade union attorney, Dr. Heisler moved to Carmel Highlands in 1948. She soon became active in the local mental health field, establishing again a private practice which continued until 1984. During this period she served as a mental health consultant to Carmel Unified School District and as an instructor in the Extension Division of the University of California at Berkeley and at Santa Cruz. Dr. Heisler was active in numerous psychiatric and mental health congresses, and she visited mental health institutions. Her vast memberships include: the American Medical Association, International Mental Health Association, Monterey County Mental Health Society, Northern California Mental Health Society, and Mid-Central Coast of Northern California Psychiatric Association. She was honored as a life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association in 1993. Dr. Heisler was instrumental in the founding of the psychiatric department of

the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, where she was a former chairman.

Dr. Heisler was truly a woman of impressive stature. Her involvement in mental health and well being was substantial, as was her love for her family and friends. It is at this time that I recognize Friedy B. Heisler's accomplishments and her involvement. She will be missed by the many people she touched during her lifetime.

CUBA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as Jose Marti, the Cuban patriot said: "The sufferings endured for the sake of winning freedom make us love it the more." Dr. Eugenio De Sosa probably knows more than most of us about that love for freedom and what it is like to live without it. Eugenio De Sosa, now in his seventies, was a successful businessman in a pre-Castro Cuba. Educated in the University of Havana, he earned his degree in diplomatic and consular law and became Editor and board member of the daily newspaper, Diario de la Marina, the oldest and one of the most prominent of Latin American publications.

In December of 1959, Dr. De Sosa's life was changed forever. He was arrested by Castro's forces for conspiring against the regime and was forced to serve a prison term of 21 years in Cuba's gulags. The torment endured by Dr. De Sosa during his prison term included routine beatings and torture, both physical and psychological. Eventually he was transferred to the Havana's Psychiatric Hospital where, along with other political prisoners, he was forced to live among the violently insane. In addition to being subjected to the brutality of the guards and deranged prisoners, he was forced to ingest psychotropic drugs and endure electroshock treatments at the hands of Castro's thugs.

After 21 years of suffering through what seemed to be an endless nightmare, this courageous Cuban compatriot was set free. Dr. De Sosa arrived in the United States on January 18, 1980. He has enjoyed tremendous success since his arrival in Miami and is a source of pride to his family and community. Dr. De Sosa's story is but one of the thousands of examples of those whose lives have been scarred and torn apart by the last tyrannical dictator left in the Western Hemisphere, Fidel Castro. Let his story be an example of the strength of the human spirit, of the fragility of freedom and of the hope of millions of Cubans living under Castro's brutal regime to one day be free.

TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY COLLINS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who devoted herself to the people of her community. Rosemary Collins spent her life serving Santa Cruz and her family. She was known throughout the community as loving and kind to all those around her.

Mrs. Collins was active in many organizations, including the Holy Cross Church which was graced by her ability to sing in many of the church events and running the monthly hot lunch program at Good Shepard School.

Rosemary Collins loved children, and children loved her. She was always willing to help a child in need of a hug or just conversation. She worked as a teachers aide and secretary at Soquel Elementary for 28 years, where she helped children with learning difficulties. Her eleven grandchildren brought her great joy in this world along with the many nieces and nephews she read to. Rosemary often said, grandchildren were God's greatest invention, and a hug from a grandchild was what life was all about.

Rosemary Collins is an example for all of us. She was the past president of the California School Employees Association as well as past president of the Young Ladies Institute, a co-founder of the 18–29er Catholic young People's Group of Holy Cross Parish. Her commitment to these organizations, and her time spent on activities of the groups helped keep community spirit alive. She was also a member of the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Capitola, and a volunteer for the Santa Cruz county elections department.

Mrs. Collins will be missed by many. She was a model citizen for the community. Rosemary Collins made the lives of our children better and will be dearly missed. Our hearts go out to her family.