

February 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7219. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting the CBO Sequestration Preview Report for Fiscal Year 1999, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 904(b); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget.

7220. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on several initiatives for Gulf War veterans, pursuant to Public Law 103-337, section 721(h); jointly to the Committees on National Security and Veterans' Affairs.

7221. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting the report on "Unauthorized Appropriations and Expiring Authorizations" by the Congressional Budget Office as of January 15, 1998, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 602(f)(3); jointly to the Committees on the Budget and Appropriations.

7222. A letter from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's report entitled "Federal Sector Report on EEO Complaints and Appeals, FY 1996," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000e-4(e); jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Government Reform and Oversight.

7223. A letter from the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the annual report on the deposits to the Medicare Trust Fund and the appropriations to the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program for the Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395i; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Ways and Means.

7224. A letter from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting the Department's tenth Annual Report to Congress summarizing the Department's progress during fiscal year 1996 in implementing the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, pursuant to Public Law 99-499, section 120(e)(5) (100 Stat. 1669); jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

7225. A letter from the Chairman, United States National Tourism Organization Board, transmitting the report of the National Tourism Organization Board, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2141b; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and International Relations.

7226. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting a report on development assistance program allocations for FY 1998, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2413(a); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

7227. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting the report on General Accounting Office employees detailed to congressional committees as of January 16, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 101-520; jointly to the Committees on Government Reform and Oversight and Appropriations.

7228. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, transmitting the annual report on the use of the Office of Compliance by covered employees, pursuant to section 301(h) of the Congressional Accountability Act; jointly to the Committees on House Oversight and Education and the Workforce.

7229. A letter from the Director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report entitled "Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on the United States Territories and Commonwealths and on the State of Hawaii," pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1681 nt.; jointly to the Committees on Resources and International Relations.

7230. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Railroad Retirement Act to make permanent the exemption of the Railroad Retirement Board trust funds from the payment to the General Services Administration of charges for rental of property occupied by the Board in excess of the actual cost of providing such property; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Government Reform and Oversight.

7231. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Social Security Administration's Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 904; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and the Judiciary.

7232. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Surety Bond and Capitalization Requirements for Home Health Agencies [HCFA-1152-FC] (RIN: 0938-A131) received December 31, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

7233. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report on Medicare reimbursement of telemedicine services, pursuant to Public Law 104-191, section 192 (110 Stat. 1988); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

7234. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare Program; Physicians' Referrals; Issuance of Advisory Opinions [HCFA-1902-IFC] (RIN: 0938-A138) received January 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

7235. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Medicare Program; Limit on the Valuation of a Depreciable Asset Recognized as an Allowance for Depreciation and Interest on Capital Indebtedness After a Change of Ownership [HCFA-1004-FC] (RIN: 0938-A134) received January 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

7236. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report regarding Medicare SELECT supplemental policies, pursuant to Public Law 104-18; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

#### ¶6.4 CENSUS MONITORING BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, by unanimous consent, announced that the Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of section 210(c)(1) of Public Law 105-119, appointed to the Census Monitoring Board, Mr. J. Kenneth Blackwell of Ohio, and Mr. David W. Murray of Virginia, from private life, on the part of the House.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate of the foregoing appointments.

#### ¶6.5 COMMISSION ON MAINTAINING UNITED STATES NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXPERTISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, by unanimous consent, announced that the Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of section 3162(b) of Public Law 104-201, appointed to the Commission on Maintaining United States Nuclear Weapons Expertise, Mr. Robert B. Barker of California and Mr. Roland F. Herbst of California, from private life, on the part of the House.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate of the foregoing appointments.

#### ¶6.6 NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, by unanimous consent, announced that the Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of section 955(b)(1)(B) of Public Law 105-83, appointed to the National Council on the Arts, on the part of the House, the following Members: Messrs. DOOLITTLE and BALLENGER.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate of the foregoing appointments.

#### ¶6.7 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, by unanimous consent, announced that the Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of section 491 of the Higher Education Act, as amended by section 407 of Public Law 99-498, appointed to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a three-year term, Mr. Henry Givens of Missouri, from private life, on the part of the House.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate of the foregoing appointment.

#### ¶6.8 COMMUNICATION TO THE SPEAKER—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, laid before the House a communication, which was read as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

*Washington, February 10, 1998.*

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1022, attached is the Economic Report of the President together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

#### ¶6.9 ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Clerk then read the message from the President, as follows:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

For the last 5 years this Administration has worked to strengthen our Nation for the 21st century, expanding opportunity for all Americans, demanding responsibility from all Americans, and bringing us together as a community of all Americans. Building a strong economy is the cornerstone of our efforts to meet these challenges.

When I first took office in 1993, the Federal budget deficit was out of control, unemployment was unacceptably high, and wages were stagnant. To reverse this course, we took a new approach, putting in place a bold economic strategy designed to bring down the deficit and give America's workers the tools and training they need to help them thrive in our changing economy.

Our strategy has succeeded: the economy has created more than 14 million new jobs, unemployment is at its lowest level in 24 years, and core inflation is at its lowest level in 30 years. Economic growth in 1997 was the strongest