

Dated: November 17, 1997.

**John Durant,**

*Director, Mod Act Task Force.*

[FR Doc. 97-30557 Filed 11-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Notice 97-64

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Notice 97-64, Temporary regulations to be issued under section 1(h) of the Internal Revenue Code (applying section 1(h) to capital gain dividends of RICs and REITs).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before January 20, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Temporary regulations to be issued under section 1(h) of the Internal Revenue Code (applying section 1(h) to capital gain dividends of RICs and REITs).

**OMB Number:** 1545-1565.

**Notice Number:** Notice 97-64.

**Abstract:** Notice 97-64 provides notice of forthcoming temporary regulations that will permit Regulated Investment Companies (RICs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to distribute multiple classes of capital gain dividends.

**Current Actions:** There are no changes being made to the notice at this time.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 3,000.

**Estimated Time Per Respondent:** 30 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden**

**Hours:** 1,500.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

#### Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: November 13, 1997.

**Garrick R. Shear,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-30551 Filed 11-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### Edmund S. Muskie and Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Programs

**ACTION:** Request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** Subject to the availability of funds, the Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchange Programs Division,

European Programs Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to administer the recruitment, selection, placement, monitoring, evaluation, and follow-on activities for the FY 1999 Edmund S. Muskie and Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Programs. Organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs are not eligible for this competition.

The Edmund S. Muskie and Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Programs (herein to be referred to as the Muskie/FSA Programs) select outstanding citizens of the New Independent States (NIS) and the Baltics to receive scholarships for Master's level study and professional development in the United States in the fields of business administration, economics, education administration, law with a new subfocus in law pedagogy, library and information science, mass communication/journalism, public administration with specialized programs in public health and environmental management, and public policy. Fellowships are awarded to qualified young and mid-career individuals who are citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan,\* Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, or Uzbekistan. Edmund S. Muskie fellows enroll in graduate degree, certificate, and non-degree programs lasting one-to-two academic years. It is estimated that approximately 245-255 Fellows will participate in the 1999 program. Interested organizations should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement and request a Solicitation Package from the USIA prior to preparing a proposal.

**\* Please note:** Programs with Azerbaijan are subject to restrictions of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act: Employees of the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities are excluded from participation, and no U.S. participant overseas may work for the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities. In addition, the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities will have no control in the actual selection of participants.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Pub. L. 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the