

MATTER(S) TO BE CONSIDERED: The Open Portion of the meeting:

1. Proposed Rules (46 CFR) Implementing the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, relating to Ocean Transportation Intermediaries, Private Tariff Systems and Service Contracts.

The Closed Portion of the Meeting:

1. Brazilian Maritime Policies Affecting U.S.-Brazil Trades.
2. Consideration of the Failure of SeaLand Service, Inc. To Comply with Subpoenas Issued in Fact Finding Investigation No. 23.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Joseph C. Polking, Secretary, (202) 523-5725.

Joseph C. Polking,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-32445 Filed 12-2-98; 3:47 pm]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 9, 1998.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.
2. Any matters carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: December 2, 1998.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-32398 Filed 12-2-98; 11:24 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m. (EST), December 14, 1998.

PLACE: 4th Floor, Conference Room, 1250 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Approval of the minutes of the November 9, 1998, Board member meeting.
2. Thrift Savings Plan activity report by the Executive Director.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Thomas J. Trabucco, Director, Office of External Affairs, (202) 942-1640.

Date: December 1, 1998.

John J. O'Meara,

Secretary to the Board, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

[FR Doc. 98-32399 Filed 12-2-98; 11:32 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request; Proposed Project

Title: National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families.

OMB No.: New.

Description: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) has intensified the need for information about child care for low-income families. Many policymakers, program operators, and others have emphasized that low-income families' access to adequate child care is essential to meet the broad goal set out in the Act—to enable families receiving public assistance to enter and remain in the workforce. PRWORA also consolidated a variety of Federal child care funds into a single block grant, the Child Care and Child Development Fund (CCDF), which gives the States broad discretion in establishing priorities for subsidy as well as levels. Faced with limited funding and a burgeoning need for child care, state policymakers are under enormous pressure to use child care funding as efficiently as possible. Their decision-making is hampered by lack of information about three important and interrelated issues: How the current set of policies and programs, for example including work requirements, child care

subsidies and regulations governing child care, affects parents' employment and child care decisions; how significant shifts in welfare and other policies, as well as funding for child care, will affect the demand for and supply of child care at the community level; and the potential implications of an increased reliance of low-income families on family child care that may or may not be regulated or monitored.

A sample of key informants at the state and community levels including governor's policy staff, child care and welfare agency staff, child care licensing and monitoring staff, child care resource and referral agency staff, and advocacy group members, representatives of private organizations such as foundations or churches, will be asked about state child care and subsidy policies and how these policies are implemented at the local level.

Additionally, they will be asked about the effect of these policies on the supply of child care. A sample of low-income families using non-parental child care will be asked about the types and cost of care used and the factors that influenced their choice of child care arrangements including the availability of child care subsidies. A sample of low-income parents using family child care will be asked about their experience with this care and how this care has affected their ability to work and to balance work and family life.

Additionally, parents will be asked about their household characteristics on a voluntary basis. The family child care providers used by the sample of low-income parents will be asked about their views on child rearing and the role of the child care provider, the relationship with the parents served, and, on a voluntary basis, their household characteristics. A sample of preschool children using family child care will be observed in their child care setting. Focus groups with family child care providers and low-income parents will be used to investigate how child care subsidy policy has affected the supply and demand for child care in their communities.

ACF, working with Abt Associates and the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University, will conduct the proposed data collection. Data will be collected at the three levels, with nested samples of counties within states and families and providers within counties. The first level is a sample of 17 states containing 25 counties that were selected to be a nationally-representative sample of counties with above average poverty rates. At the family level, data will be collected from two samples: