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non-Special Agents in scientific, technical, and similar positions. In addition, the bill gives the Department of the Treasury authority to implement demonstration programs for such positions in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the United States Customs Service, and the United States Secret Service. While I strongly support efforts to ensure the highest quality work force for these critical law enforcement agencies, this new authority does not appear necessary. There is no evidence of recruitment and retention problems for these occupational categories that could not be solved through existing authorities. In addition, the budget impact of implementing these provisions is not known. I am, therefore, directing the two departments to work with the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management to resolve these issues before developing any plan to implement this new authority.

As a number of lower courts have recognized, the automatic stay provision of the Prison Litigation Reform Act raises a significant constitutional issue. Section 123 of H.R. 2267 amends this provision in a manner that may affect the constitutional issue and the position that my Administration will need to take in litigation. The Department of Justice will evaluate the amended provision further, and, if necessary, propose remedies to ameliorate any constitutional problems.

I am pleased that the Congress rejected efforts to reduce funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), thus ensuring that disadvantaged Americans continue to have access to the judicial system. But, I remain concerned about the erosion of financial support for the LSC over time, and I am hopeful that the Congress will approve increases for this program in the future.

Finally, the Act provides $6 million in contingent Department of Agriculture emergency funding for indemnity payments to farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock losses in the West due to the unusually early and heavy winter snowstorm in October. I will soon transmit a budget request to make these funds available.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 26, 1997.

NOTE: H.R. 2267, approved November 26, was assigned Public Law No. 105–119.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 22

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation from the Oval Office with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia concerning the situation in Iraq. Later, he traveled to Denver, CO. On arrival, the President met with 97-year-old Daisy Anderson, the last surviving widow of a Civil War veteran.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Seattle, WA, and in the evening he traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

November 23

In the morning, the President played golf with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore at the Shaughnessy Golf Course in Vancouver.

November 24

In the morning, at the Waterfront Centre Hotel, the President hosted a breakfast with leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and later met with President Soeharto of Indonesia.

In the afternoon, at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Center, the President attended an APEC leaders' agenda briefing and a dialog with APEC Business Advisory

Council representatives. The President also met with President Kim Yong-sam of South Korea.

In the evening, the President attended a dinner for APEC leaders hosted by Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada at British Columbia Place.

November 25

In the morning, the President attended the APEC leaders' meeting in the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. In the afternoon, he joined APEC leaders for a luncheon in the Norman MacKenzie House at the university. Later, the President returned to the Museum of Anthropology, where he attended the afternoon session of the leaders' meeting and then met with President Eduardo Frei of Chile.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

November 26

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton went to Camp David, MD, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ian Francis Hancock as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ryan C. Crocker to be Ambassador to Syria.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Lacy Swing to be Ambassador to the Congo.

The White House announced that Presidents Lennart Meri of Estonia, Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia, and Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania will visit the White House on January 16, 1998.

November 27

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with the crewmembers of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* to wish them a happy Thanksgiving.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 22

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released November 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry, Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Steinberg, and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky on the APEC summit

Released November 24

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, Assistant to the President for International Economic Policy Daniel Tarullo, Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Steinberg, and Treasury Deputy Secretary Larry Summers on the APEC summit

Released November 25

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Mara Rudman as Special Assistant to the President and National Security Council Senior Director for Legislative Affairs

Excerpt of remarks to the U.S. Embassy community (as prepared for delivery)

Released November 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

Announcement by the White House Millennium Program and the National Endowment for the Arts on the Millennium logo competition