

Conference, enabling them to express views to either Government and inviting them to participate in various aspects of the work of the Conference. Other more structured arrangements could be devised by agreement.

49. The Conference will also be a framework for consultation and coordination between both Governments and the new North/South institutions, where the wider role of the two Governments is particularly relevant to the work of those institutions, for example in a coordinated approach on EU issues. It would be for consideration by both Governments, in consultation with the relevant parties in the North, or with the institutions after they have been established, whether to achieve this through formal or ad hoc arrangements.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

50. There is a large body of support, transcending the political divide, for the comprehensive protection and guarantee of fundamental human rights. Acknowledging this, both Governments envisage that the arrangements set out in this Framework Document will be complemented and underpinned by an explicit undertaking in the Agreement on the part of each Government, equally, to ensure in its jurisdiction in the island of Ireland, in accordance with its constitutional arrangements, the systematic and effective protection of common specified civil, political, social and cultural rights. They will discuss and seek agreement with the relevant political parties in Northern Ireland as to what rights should be so specified and how they might best be further protected, having regard to each Government's overall responsibilities including its international obligations. Each Government will introduce appropriate legislation in its jurisdiction to give effect to any such measure of agreement.

51. In addition, both Governments would encourage democratic representatives from both jurisdictions in Ireland to adopt a Charter or Covenant, which might reflect and endorse agreed measures for the protection of the fundamental rights of everyone living in Ireland. It could also pledge a commitment to mutual respect and to the civil rights and religious liberties of both communities, including: The right of free political thought, the right to freedom and expression of religion, the right to pursue democratically national and political aspirations, the right to seek constitutional change by peaceful and legitimate means, the right to live wherever one chooses without hindrance, the right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, gender or colour.

52. This Charter or Covenant might also contain a commitment to the principle of consent in the relationships between the two traditions in Ireland. It could incorporate also an enduring commitment on behalf of all the people of the island to guarantee and protect the rights, interests, ethos and dignity of the unionist community in any all-Ireland framework that might be developed with consent in the future, to at least the same extent as provided for the nationalist community in the context of Northern Ireland under the structures and provisions of the new Agreement.

53. The Covenant might also affirm on behalf of all traditions in Ireland a solemn commitment to the exclusively peaceful resolution of all differences between them including in relation to all issues of self-determination, and a solemn repudiation of all recourse to violence between them for any political end or purpose.

CONCLUSION

54. Both Governments agree that the issues set out in this Framework Document should

be examined in the most comprehensive attainable negotiations with democratically mandated political parties in Northern Ireland which abide exclusively by peaceful means and wish to join in dialogue on the way ahead.

55. Both Governments intend that the outcome of these negotiations will be submitted for democratic ratification through referendums, North and South.

56. Both Governments believe that the present climate of peace, which owes much to the imagination, courage and steadfastness of all those who have suffered from violence, offers the best prospect for the Governments and the parties in Northern Ireland to work to secure agreement and consent to a new political accommodation. To accomplish that would be an inestimable prize for all, and especially for people living in Northern Ireland, who have so much to gain from such an accommodation, in which the divisions of the past are laid aside forever and differences are resolved by exclusively political means. Both Governments believe that a new political dispensation, such as they set out in this Framework Document, achieved through agreement and reconciliation and founded on the principle of consent, would achieve that objective and transform relationships in Northern Ireland, in the island of Ireland and between both islands.

57. With agreement, co-operation to the mutual benefit of all living in Ireland could develop without impediment, attaining its full potential for stimulating economic growth and prosperity. New arrangements could return power, authority and responsibility to locally-elected representatives in Northern Ireland on a basis acceptable to both sides of the community, enabling them to work together for the common welfare and interests of all the community. The diversity of identities and allegiances could be regarded by all as a source of mutual enrichment, rather than a threat to either side. The divisive issue of sovereignty might cease to be symbolic of the domination of one community over another. It would instead be for decision under agreed ground-rules, fair and balanced towards both aspirations, through a process of democratic persuasion governed by the principle of consent rather than by threat, fear or coercion. In such circumstances the Governments hope that the relationship between the traditions in Northern Ireland could become a positive bond of further understanding, co-operation and amity, rather than a source of contention, between the wider British and Irish democracies.

58. Accordingly the British and Irish Governments offer for consideration and strongly commend these proposals, trusting that, with generosity and goodwill, the peoples of these islands will build on them a new and lasting agreement.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

REPORT OF A DEFERRAL AND RE-SCISSIONS AFFECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 21

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; referred jointly to the Committee on the Budget, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works; as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one revised deferral, totaling \$7.3 million, and two revised rescission proposals, totaling \$106.7 million.

The revised deferral affects the Department of Health and Human Services. The revised rescission proposals affect the Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 22, 1995.

WORKING WAGE INCREASE ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 22

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate under that act; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources; as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit for your immediate consideration and enactment the "Working Wage Increase Act of 1995."

This draft bill would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to increase the minimum wage in two 45 cents steps—from the current rate of \$4.25 an hour to \$4.70 an hour on July 4, 1995, and to \$5.15 an hour after July 3, 1996. The pattern of the proposed increase is identical to that of the last increase, which passed the Congress with a broad bipartisan majority and was signed by President Bush in 1989. The first increment of the proposal simply restores the minimum wage to its real value following the change enacted in 1989.

If the Congress does not act now, the minimum wage will fall to its lowest real level in 40 years. That would dishonor one of the great promises of American life—that everyone who works hard can earn a living wage.

More than 11 million workers would benefit under this proposal, and a full-time, year-round worker at the minimum wage would get a \$1,800 raise—the equivalent of 7 months of groceries for the average family.

To reform the Nation's welfare system, we should make work pay, and this legislation would help achieve that result. It would offer a raise to families that are working hard, but struggling to make ends meet. Most individuals earning the minimum wage are adults, and the average worker affected by this proposal brings home half of the family's earnings. Numerous empirical studies indicate that an increase in the minimum wage of the magnitude proposed would not have a significant impact on employment. The legislation would ensure that those who work hard and play by the rules can live with the dignity they have earned.

I urge the Congress to take prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 13, 1995.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by 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. 7. An act to revitalize the national security of the United States;

H.R. 667. An act to control crime by incarcerating violent criminals;

H.R. 728. An act to control crime by providing law enforcement block grants; and

H.R. 831. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the deduction for the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals, to repeal the provision permitting nonrecognition of gain on sales and exchanges effectuating policies of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of 22 United States Code, 1928a, the Speaker appoints the following Members to the United States Group of the North Atlantic Assembly on the part of the House: Mr. BEREUTER, Chairman, Mr. SOLOMON, Vice Chairman, Mr. REGULA, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, and Mrs. ROUKEMA.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 7. An act to revitalize the national security of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 667. An act to control crime by incarcerating violent criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 728. An act to control crime by providing law enforcement block grants; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 831. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the deduction for the health insurance costs

of self-employed individuals, to repeal the provision permitting nonrecognition of gain on sales and exchanges effectuating policies of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 376. A bill to resolve the current labor dispute involving major league baseball, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

General James B. Davis, United States Air Force, Retired, of Florida, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission for a term expiring at the end of the first session of the 104th Congress, vice Beverly Butcher Byron, term expired.

Wendi Louise Steele, of Texas, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission for a term expiring at the end of the first session of the 104th Congress, vice Harry C. McPherson, Jr., term expired.

Benjamin F. Montoya, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission for a term expiring at the end of the first session of the 104th Congress, vice Arthur Levitt, Jr., term expired.

S. Lee Kling, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission for a term expiring at the end of the first session of the 104th Congress, vice Hansford T. Johnson, term expired.

Alton W. Cornella, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission for a term expiring at the end of the first session of the 104th Congress, vice Peter B. Bowman, term expired.

Rebecca G. Cox, of California, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission for a term expiring at the end of the first session of the 104th Congress. (Reappointment)

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

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. SIMON (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. PACKWOOD, and Mr. HATFIELD):

S. 457. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to update references in the classification of children for purposes of United States immigration laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 458. A bill to protect the opening of the 1995 season for the hunting of migratory

birds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 459. A bill to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. FORD:

S. 460. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to ensure equity in the extent to which businesses located near Interstate and Federal-aid primary highways may erect outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GORTON:

S. 461. A bill to authorize extension of time limitation for a FERC-issued hydroelectric license; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 462. A bill to provide for the temporary suspension of the reformulated gasoline rules under the Clean Air Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 463. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the treatment of certain transportation and subsistence expenses of retired judges; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SIMON (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. PACKWOOD, and Mr. HATFIELD):

S. 457. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to update references in the classification of children for purposes of U.S. immigration laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to help individuals trying to adopt a child from a foreign country.

The adoption landscape has changed dramatically in this country over the past 25 years. While international adoptions continue to be a small part of total U.S. adoptions—about 15 percent—thousands of Americans pursue them every year.

Our law regarding international adoption is in a state of some confusion. U.S. law requires that a child be certified as an orphan in order to be eligible for adoption by an American and for an immigrant visa to the United States. This can be accomplished in one of two ways: proof that both parents are dead or; irrevocable release by a sole parent for adoption and emigration. Under U.S. law, a sole parent is the mother of an illegitimate child. Many countries, however, have stopped using the term illegitimate, as have many States in this country. Children born in such countries to parents who are not married are now considered legitimate but born out of wedlock. Technology, these children are no longer eligible for adoption and emigration to the United States, even if the child's father has abandoned him or her.