

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 CONCERNING THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED DURING RECESS—PM 123

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 1995, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 14, 1996, during the recess of the Senate, received the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee.

To the Congress of the United States:

Fifty years ago, the Congress passed and President Truman signed the Employment Act of 1946, which committed the U.S. Government to promote policies designed to create employment opportunities for all Americans. I am proud that my Administration has made President Truman's commitment a reality. Over the past 3 years, we have created a sound economic foundation to face the challenges of the 21st century.

STRONG ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Overall, the American economy is healthy and strong. In the first 3 years of this Administration nearly 8 million jobs were created; 93 percent of them in the private sector. The so-called "misery index"—the sum of the inflation and unemployment rates—fell last year to its lowest level since 1968. Investment has soared, laying the basis for future higher economic growth. New business incorporations have set a record and exports of American-made goods have grown rapidly. Our is the strongest and most competitive economy in the world—and its fundamentals are as sound as they have been in three decades.

This turnaround occurred because of the hard work and ingenuity of the American people. Many of the new jobs are high-wage service sector jobs—reflecting the changing structure of the economy. The telecommunications, biotechnology, and software industries have led the high-tech revolution world-wide. Traditional industries, such as manufacturing and construction, have restructured and now use technology and workplace innovation to thrive and once again create jobs. For example, in 1994 and 1995, America was once again the world's largest automobile maker.

Our 1993 economic plan set the stage for this economic expansion and resurgence, by enacting historic deficit reduction while continuing to invest in

technology and education. For over a decade, growing Federal budget deficits kept interest rates high and dampened reinvestment and productivity growth. Now, our deficit is proportionately the lowest of any major economy.

Today, our challenge is to ensure that all Americans can become winners in economic change—that our people have the skills and the security to make the most of their own lives. The very explosion of technology and trade that creates such extraordinary opportunity also places new pressures on working people. Over the past two decades, middle-class earnings have stagnated, and our poorest families saw their incomes fall. These are long-run trends, and 3 years of sound economic policies cannot correct for a decade of neglect. Even so, we are beginning to make some progress: real median family income increased by 2.3 percent in 1994, and the poverty rate fell in 1994 for the first time in 5 years.

ADDRESSING OUR ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

I am firmly committed to addressing our economic challenges and enhancing economic security for all Americans. People who work hard need to know that they can and will have a chance to win in our new and changing economy. Our economic agenda seeks both to promote growth and to bring the fruits of that growth within reach of all Americans. Our overall strategy is straightforward:

—*Balancing the budget.* In the 12 years before I took office, the budget deficit skyrocketed and the national debt quadrupled. My Administration has already cut the budget deficit nearly in half. I am determined to finish the job of putting our fiscal house in order. I have proposed a plan that balances the budget in 7 years, without violating our fundamental values—without undercutting Medicare, Medicaid, education, or the environment and without raising taxes on working families. The plans put forth by my Administration and by the Republicans in the Congress contain enough spending cuts in common to balance the budget and still provide a modest tax cut. I am committed to giving the American people a balanced budget.

—*Preparing workers through education and training.* In the new economy, education is the key to opportunity—and the education obtained as a child in school will no longer last a lifetime. My Administration has put in place the elements of a lifetime-learning system to enable Americans to attend schools with high standards; get help going to college, or from school into the workplace; and receive training and education throughout their careers. We expanded Head Start for preschoolers; enacted Goals 2000, establishing high standards for schools; created a new direct student loan program that makes it easier for young people to borrow

and repay college loans; gave 50,000 young people the opportunity to earn college tuition through community service; and enacted the School-to-Work Opportunities Act. Now we must continue to give our people the skills they need, by enacting my proposals to make the first \$10,000 of college tuition tax deductible; to give the top 5 percent of students in each high school a \$1,000 merit scholarship; and to enact the GI Bill for Workers, which would replace the existing worker training system with a flexible voucher that workers could use at community colleges or other training facilities.

—*Increasing economic security.* We must give Americans the security then need to thrive in the new economy. We can do this through health insurance reforms that will give Americans a chance to buy insurance when they change jobs or when someone in their family is sick. We can do this by encouraging firms to provide more extensive pension coverage, as I have done through my proposals for pension simplification. In addition, we should make work pay by increasing the minimum wage and preserving the full Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which cuts taxes for hard-pressed working families to make sure that no parents who work full-time have to raise their children in poverty.

—*Creating high-wage jobs through technology and exports.* We must continue to encourage the growth of high-wage industries, which will create the high-wage jobs of the future. We have reformed the decades-old telecommunications laws, to help spur the digital revolution that will continue to transform the way we live. We must continue to encourage exports, since jobs supported by goods exports pay on average 13 percent more than other jobs. My Administration has concluded over 200 trade agreements, including the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, seeking an open world marketplace and fair rules for exporters of American goods and services. As a result, merchandise exports have increased by 31 percent.

—*A government that is smaller, works better, and costs less.* A new economy demands a new kind of government. The era of big, centralized, one-size-fits-all government is over. But the answer is not the wholesale dismantling of government. Rather, we must strive to meet our problems using flexible, non-bureaucratic means—and working with businesses, religious groups, civic organizations, schools, and State and local governments. My Administration has reduced the size of government: as

a percentage of civilian nonfarm employment, the Federal workforce is the smallest it has been since 1933, before the New Deal. We have conducted a top-to-bottom overhaul of Federal regulations, and are eliminating 16,000 pages of outdated or burdensome rules altogether. We have reformed environmental, workplace safety, and pharmaceutical regulations to cut red tape without hurting public protection. And we will continue to find new, market-based ways to protect the public.

THE NEED TO CONTINUE WITH WHAT WORKS

As *The Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers* makes clear, this is a moment of great possibility for our country. Ours is the healthiest of any major economy. No nation on earth is better positioned to reap the rewards of the new era. Our strategy of deficit reduction and investment in our people has begun to work. It would be a grave error to turn back.

Our Nation must reject the temptation to shrink from its responsibilities or to turn to narrow, shortsighted solutions for long-term problems. If we continue to invest for the long term, we will pass on to the next generation a Nation in which opportunity is even more plentiful than it is today.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 14, 1996

REPORT CONCERNING REVISION OF CERTAIN BUDGET DEFERRALS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED DURING RECESS—PM 124

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 1995, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 23, 1996, during the recess of the Senate, received the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, was referred jointly to the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on the Budget, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Armed Services.

To The Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report three new deferrals and one revised deferral, totaling \$3.6 billion, and four rescission proposals of budgetary resources, totaling \$140 million.

These deferrals affect the International Security Assistance programs as well as programs of the Agency for International Development. The rescission proposals affect the Department of Defense.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 23, 1996.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, March 7, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to review S. 745, a bill to require the National Park Service to eradicate brucellosis afflicting the bison in Yellowstone National Park; S. 796, a bill to provide for the protection of wild horses within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri, and prohibit the removal of such horses; H.R. 238, a bill to provide for the protection of wild horses within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri, and prohibit the removal of such horses; and S. 1451, a bill to authorize an agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and a State providing for the continued operation by State employees of national parks in the State during any period in which the National Park Service is unable to maintain the normal level of park operations.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Jim O'Toole of the subcommittee staff at (202) 224-5161.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, this telecommunications legislation is a deregulatory bill, and I am particularly pleased in this regard with the provisions covering commercial mobile services that lift the restrictions now disadvantaging the BOC affiliated CMRS carriers.

As soon as this bill is signed into law, the BOC affiliated commercial mobile service carriers can begin to offer the full range of end-to-end interLATA services to their mobile customers just as their competitors are able to do now. They need no Government action or approval.

I am pleased to have had the chairman confirm that my understanding is correct. Upon enactment, the MFJ interLATA restriction on commercial mobile service affiliates of the Bell operating companies is eliminated. •

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Portland State University [PSU], Oregon's urban university. In its short life, the university has evolved into a national model for how higher education can be integrated into urban communities through service learning directed at taking on thorny urban problems. What this means is that instead of just focusing on ethereal academic concepts, PSU staff and students roll up their sleeves and connect concepts with community, and knowledge of an academic subject with real world applications.

In 1946, Portland State University began as an extension school to serve returning World War II veterans. Today, the university serves more than 37,000 individuals every year, offering a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. What's more, since its extension school days, PSU's mission has shifted to showing how town and gown can work together to build the communities of the future.

When innovative community programs in the Portland metropolitan area are brought to my attention, often I find that PSU is in the thick of things. One program that I am involved with is PSU's partnership with the Police Activities League [PAL] in sponsoring the National Youth Sports Program on campus every year. The program provides at-risk youngsters with a structured summer program which emphasizes sports, positive decision-making skills, and education. PSU does more than just provide the facilities—in keeping with its mission, university faculty consult with PAL in developing curriculum for the program and students are active participants in running the program. The collaboration doesn't just stop at the end of the summer. Throughout the year, PSU and PAL work together to involve these youngsters in positive programs and encourage them to work toward a college degree.

PSU has also tapped into emerging technologies to both strengthen the university and the community. One of the most innovative uses of technology is its PORTALS program, or the Portland Area Library System. PORTALS is a cooperative endeavor linking public and private institutions throughout the Portland area to an electronically accessible research library, with PSU as its hub. The States of Oregon and Washington both stand to benefit from the new resources available through this innovative project.

These programs are just the tip of the iceberg of the university's involvement. PSU runs teacher academies to help local teachers get in-service education. PSU students, who are all required to be involved in community projects, work at local community-based organizations such as community health centers, schools, and after-school programs.