

This will provide a tracking program nationwide. It is an appropriate function of the Federal Government to keep tabs on such offenders—and help to arm communities with information that might well prevent future, similar, horrifying crimes. We know that 40 percent of convicted sex offenders will repeat their crimes. We must begin acting on that information.

Mr. President, Senator GRAMM and I are not asking that any money be appropriated for this purpose—the FBI can create such a tracking system with existing resources. And this is how Federal agencies should be spending the taxpayers' money: on protecting them and their children, and making their communities safer, less threatening places to live.

One of the ultimate responsibilities of Government is the protection of its citizens—especially its youngest and most vulnerable. This measure does not seek to impose additional punishment on sex offenders—but it is aimed at providing society at large with an element of self-defense that it does not enjoy now.

#### TAX DAY

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, Tax Day has come and gone, and I would wager that few outside of Washington, DC, marked its passing because they were so absorbed in the last minute preparation and filing of income tax returns. Most paid scant heed to this congressionally created day of moment, which, in my view, panders irresponsibly to popular aversion to taxation.

It is far more responsible, in my view, to emphasize the positive aspects of public finance. Most Federal taxes flow right back to Americans in benefits and services. Federal taxes here includes both Federal income taxes and Federal payroll or Social Security taxes. Payroll taxes are used to pay Social Security and Medicare benefits to our elderly and disabled. Income taxes are used to fund the operations of our Government which include the provision of student loans for education, maintenance of our national parks and museums, low-interest mortgage loans for first-time home buyers, veterans benefits, unemployment compensation, and our military defense, among other things.

I am advised that Federal entitlements—benefits citizens are entitled to collect if they meet certain demographic or income definition—reach 49 percent of U.S. households, including 39 percent of families with children and 98 percent of the elderly.

Moreover, in my view, Americans are not overtaxed in comparison with other nations. The highest statutory marginal individual income tax rate in the United States, 39.6 percent, is relatively low by international standards. France, Germany, Italy, and Japan have tax rates that are substantially higher, reaching 56.8 percent. By another measure, using total tax receipts

as a percent of gross domestic product [GDP], the United States has an average tax rate of 31.5 percent. The United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Canada, and France are all significantly higher, with several having average tax rates in excess of 40 percent of GDP.

Of course, constant restraint and diligence must be exercised to make sure that waste, fraud, and abuse are avoided at all times. But overall, I believe that our Federal Government has had, and continues to have, a positive impact on the lives of most Americans. In the words of Justice Holmes, "taxes are what we pay for civilized society." In the end, we get what we pay for.

#### 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 THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 138

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to present to you the 1995 Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). For 30 years, this Federal agency has given Americans great opportunities to explore and share with each other our country's vibrant and diverse cultural heritage. Its work supports an impressive array of humanities projects.

These projects have mined every corner of our tradition, unearthing all the distinct and different voices, emotions, and ideas that together make up what is a uniquely American culture. In 1995, they ranged from an award-winning television documentary on President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the radio production *Wade in the Water*, to preservation projects that will rescue 750,000 important books from obscurity and archive small community newspapers from every State in the Union. Pandora's Box, a traveling museum exhibit of women and myth in classical Greece, drew thousands of people.

The humanities have long helped Americans bridge differences, learn to appreciate one another, shore up the foundations of our democracy, and

build strong and vital institutions across our country. At a time when our society faces new and profound challenges, when so many Americans feel insecure in the face of change, the presence and accessibility of the humanities in all our lives can be a powerful source of our renewal and our unity as we move forward into the 21st century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 17, 1996.

#### REPORT ON ALASKA'S MINERAL RESOURCES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 139

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith the 1995 Annual Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources, as required by section 1011 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487; 16 U.S.C. 3151). This report contains pertinent public information relating to minerals in Alaska gathered by the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and other Federal agencies.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 17, 1996.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 2337. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for increased taxpayer protections.

H.R. 2501. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of a hydroelectric project in Kentucky, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2630. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Illinois.

H.R. 2695. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of certain hydroelectric projects in the State of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2773. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of 2 hydroelectric projects in North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2816. An act to reinstate the license for, and extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of, a hydroelectric project in Ohio, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2869. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Kentucky.

H.R. 3034. An act to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to extend for two months the authority for promulgating regulations under the Act.

H.R. 3074. An act to amend the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 to provide the President with additional proclamation authority with respect to articles of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone.

H.R. 3121. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions under those Acts, to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for the purposes.

### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3074. An act to amend the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 to provide the President with additional proclamation authority with respect to articles of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3121. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions under those Acts, to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measures were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2501. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of a hydroelectric project in Kentucky, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2630. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Illinois.

H.R. 2695. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of certain hydroelectric projects in the State of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2773. An act to A bill to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of 2 hydroelectric projects in North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2816. An act to reinstate the license for, and extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of, a hydroelectric project in Ohio, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2869. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Kentucky.

The following bill was ordered placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2337. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for increased taxpayer protections.

### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2219. A communication from the Secretary of Energy transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for 1995; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2220. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of

the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2221. A communication from the Deputy Chief (Programs and Legislation Division), Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to the Range Mobile Target Support function; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2222. A communication from the Deputy Chief (Programs and Legislation Division), Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to depot maintenance activities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2223. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a major defense acquisition program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2224. A communication from the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice of an intention to offer a transfer by sale; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2225. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment) transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a study relative to outsourcing; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2226. A communication from the Secretary of the Army transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the average unit procurement cost for a program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2227. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Logistics and Environment) transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to Fort Polk, LA; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2228. A communication from the Secretary of Energy transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of DOE activities relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2229. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to outsourcing; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2230. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2231. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2232. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the (entire) National Water Quality Inventory Report for calendar year 1994; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2233. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) and women and minority business enterprises; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2234. A communication from the Secretary of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a major rule to establish license and annual fees under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2235. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, the report of the financial statements for fiscal years 1994 and 1995; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2236. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on nonlethal weapons; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2237. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the U.S. Information Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an exchange visitor's program duration; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2238. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Overseas Private Investment Corporation Amendments Act of 1996"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2239. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Presidential Determination relative to international financial institutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2240. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the United Nations Civilian Police operation in Eastern Slavonia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2241. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of contributions to international organizations for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2242. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2243. A communication from the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Federal Prison Industries for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2244. A communication from the Director of the Federal Judicial Center, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2245. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2246. A communication from the Postmaster General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2247. A communication from the Director of the Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to provide for the conversion of existing temporary U.S. District Judgeships to permanent status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2248. A communication from the Director of the Office of Governmental Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2249. A communication from the Executive Director of Government Affairs of the Non Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S.A., transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of financial statements for calendar years 1994 and 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2250. A communication from the Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.