

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### TRIBUTE TO COL. JOHN K. WILSON III

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Col. John K. Wilson III as he retires after 26 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Air Force.

Colonel Wilson is retiring from his position as the executive director of operations, Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Legislative Liaison at the Pentagon. In addition to this position, he also served as Chief, Congressional Inquiries Division. In a previous legislative liaison tour, Colonel Wilson served as a Congressional Inquiries Officer as well as a Senate Liaison Officer. In these critical positions, Colonel Wilson not only served the Air Force well, but he also assisted the U.S. Congress.

During his tenure, he worked with hundreds of Members of Congress, responding to their constituent inquiries, lending his expertise in Air Force matters and handling a myriad of unique situations. Colonel Wilson's professionalism, diplomacy, and insight were essential to the flawless planning and execution of well over 100 Congressional worldwide fact-finding travels. His comprehensive knowledge of the legislative process and thorough understanding of Air Force issues made him the perfect liaison between the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

Mr. President, I join with my colleagues who have directly benefited from the superb support Colonel Wilson has provided the Congress and executive branch, in congratulating him for a job extremely well done and wishing he and his lovely wife Andrea, the very best in the future. He will be a success in any pursuit he may endeavor to undertake. Colonel Wilson is a professional among professionals and has brought great credit upon himself and the U.S. Air Force.

### TRIBUTE TO PAMELA HARRIMAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I was shocked and deeply saddened by Pamela Harriman's death last week in Paris. All of us in the Kennedy family cherished her friendship, and we will always have many warm memories of her close ties to our family.

In a very real sense, throughout the Reagan and Bush years, she was the First Lady of the Democratic Party. I especially admired her leadership, her extraordinary ability, and her abiding commitment to the best ideals of public service.

Pamela's friendship with the Kennedy family goes back more than half a

century. It began in the difficult days of World War II in England during my father's service as Ambassador in London. Pamela became an especially close friend of my older sister Kathleen, and her friendship with our family continued ever since.

Her marriage to Averell Harriman in 1971 brought us even closer. Averell had been a great friend and key adviser to President Kennedy on foreign policy, and his wise counsel had been instrumental in the passage of the Limited Test Ban Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In one of her most extraordinary accomplishments, Pamela became one of the pillars of the Democratic Party during the 1980's. She never lost faith in the enduring principles of our party. She held those ideals high, and she inspired legions of others to do so as well. Her leadership was especially effective in revitalizing our party in all parts of the country during the Reagan and Bush years, and President Clinton's dramatic victory in 1992 was her victory too.

Pamela's unique qualities of leadership and ability earned her great additional renown during her recent service as Ambassador to France. On a host of challenging issues ranging from the war in Bosnia to disagreements over NATO and international trade, she served with her trademark combination of skill, grace, and sensitivity that made her so respected and beloved by all who knew her and by the entire diplomatic community.

All of us in the Kennedy family admired her leadership and her statesmanship, but most of all, we were grateful for her friendship. The Nation has lost a truly remarkable public servant, and we will miss her very much.

### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, February 11, the Federal debt stood at \$5,305,463,575,595.03.

Five years ago, February 11, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,796,319,000,000.

Ten years ago, February 11, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,226,839,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, February 11, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,033,988,000,000.

Twenty-five years ago, February 11, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$424,352,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion (\$4,881,111,575,595.03) during the past 25 years.

### TAXPAYERS AT RISK FROM GOVERNMENT WASTE AND MISMANAGEMENT

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, today the U.S. General Accounting Office [GAO] issues its high risk series which identifies those federal programs that are especially vulnerable to waste and mismanagement. The programs

identified in these reports have cost taxpayers billions of dollars in unnecessary expenditures. Without adequate oversight from the Congress many more billions will be wasted before we are through. While the magnitude of the problems GAO has identified is shocking, I am optimistic that we have in place the tools to change Government for the better—but we must be willing to use them.

There is a tendency when we are debating how to balance the budget or when the crisis de jour erupts, for Government to ignore management issues—those which to some are tedious, time-consuming and best left to the bean-counters. While management issues sometimes tend to get swept under the carpet during high-minded policy debates, we ignore them at our peril. We cannot implement any of our policy solutions without effective public administration. In an era of static resources, if we are to balance the budget, replace aging weapon systems at the Department of Defense [DOD], or attack drug abuse, we must achieve significant savings. To find the money, we have to make Government better while cheaper and, to do that, we have to do things smarter.

GAO identifies 25 areas that we must focus on to avoid squandering billions of taxpayer dollars. For example, GAO reports that DOD wastes billions of dollars each year on uneeded and inefficient activities, is vulnerable to additional billions of dollars in waste by buying unnecessary supplies and risks overpaying contractors millions of dollars for services not rendered. It reports that the Internal Revenue Service's accounting is so poor that it cannot effectively manage the collection of the over \$113 billion owed the U.S. Government in delinquent taxes. In addition, GAO again criticizes the management of the IRS' computer modernization effort. Just last week, certain IRS officials conceded that this "modernization" has already cost the taxpayers \$4 billion and "does not work in the real world".

IRS is not the only Federal agency having a problem coming to grips with the electronic age. Over the last 6 years, the Federal Government has spent \$145 billion on computers but continues to have, according to GAO, "chronic problems harnessing the full potential of information technology to improve performance, cut costs, and/or enhance responsiveness to the public." The security of sensitive data on Government computers and how well the Government converts its old computers to run in the 2000 were also identified by GAO as areas that posed a risk to the Treasury.

Billions of dollars in waste, fraud, and abuse occur in Federal benefit programs. GAO reports, in the supplemental security income program alone, taxpayers are losing over \$1 billion a year in overpayments. The \$197 billion Medicare Program, according to GAO

"loses significant amounts due to persistent fraudulent and wasteful claims and abusive billings."

The risk of losses from the \$941 billion Federal loan portfolio is another source of taxpayer vulnerability. Currently, the Government has \$44 billion of defaulted guaranteed loans on its books and has written off many billions more over the last few years. According to GAO, three loan programs (student, farm, and housing) are especially vulnerable due to poor agency management. GAO also calls for improving Federal contract management at several agencies that spend tens of billions of dollars each year on contractor support. Finally, the 2000 census was placed on the high risk list. The census has tremendous implications in the allocation of billions of dollars in Federal funding and for the apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives.

However, GAO was not all doom and gloom acknowledging that, "after decades of seeing high risk problems and management weaknesses recur in agency after agency," Congress has moved to enact several Government-wide reforms to address the situation. GAO mentions five such laws as key to improving operations in the Federal Government: The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and the Clinger-Cohen Act information management and procurement reforms of 1996. These laws are designed to get the Federal Government to operate in a sound, businesslike manner. It is up to Congress and the administration to ensure that these management reforms are implemented to improve Government performance and results.

I want to work with the administration and my colleagues in Congress to improve the Government's operations. As part of this process, I plan to invite before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee the Director of OMB to address the problems identified by GAO. We have the legislative framework in place to eradicate these programs from GAO's high risk list. What we need is the vision and fortitude to implement these bipartisan management reforms and achieve a lasting solution to the management problems that torment the pocketbook of our citizens.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation: Mr. EMERSON of Missouri and Mr. SKELTON of Missouri.

The message also announced that the Speaker appoints the following Member to the Board of Trustees of Galaudet University: Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois.

#### 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-1054. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of fourteen rules including one rule relative to Class E airspace, (RIN2120-AA64, AA66) received on February 11, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1055. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules including one rule relative to Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation, (RIN2105-AC63, AC34) received on February 11, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1056. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1057. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules including one rule relative to National Emission Standards, (FRL-5669-3, 5682-9, 5683-4), received on February 10, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1058. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of one rule relative to Land Disposal Restrictions, (FRL-5681-4) received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1059. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules including one rule relative to approval and promulgation of implementation plans, (FRL-5680-5, 5685-7, 5685-1), received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1060. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of one rule relative to Military Munitions, (FRL-5686-4) received on February 6, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1061. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules including one rule relative to approval and promulgation of implementation plans, (FRL-5686-2, 5685-8, 5678-5), received on February 6, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1062. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Dependency and Income" (RIN2900-AI47, AI36) received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1063. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administration, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Exemption from Import and Export Requirements for Personal Use" (RIN1117-AA38, AA42); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1064. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Interim Guidelines for the Examination of Claims" (RIN0651-XX09) received on February 6, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1065. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Badlands National Park" (RIN1024-AC30) received on February 8, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1066. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, an acquisition regulation (RIN1991-AB34) received on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1067. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning process-oriented energy efficiency; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1068. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Notice 97-15 received on February 10, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1069. A communication from the Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting a report of accomplishments; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1070. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Veterans' Medicare Reimbursement Model Project Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1071. A communication from the Director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting pursuant to law, a report containing an analysis and description of services for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1072. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Determination relative to the Republic of Yemen; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1073. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Removal of Commercial Communications Satellites" received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.