

void in this institution. He has been an effective leader, a strong legislator, a fearless defender of his State, and a good friend. As he approaches retirement, I want to thank WENDELL FORD for his service to his country and congratulate him for his extraordinary career. We will truly miss him.

THE 86TH BIRTHDAY OF ARNOLD ARONSON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to wish Arnie Aronson a happy 86th birthday and to commend him on his many achievements.

Arnie has been working for civil rights for over 50 years. He began at a time when help wanted ads openly specified "Gentile only" or "Irish need not apply." In the early 1940's he organized a coalition of religious, ethnic, civil rights, social welfare, and labor organizations into the Chicago Council Against Religious and Racial Discrimination. By 1950 he was working with Roy Wilkins and many others to organize support for President Truman's proposed civil rights effort and engineered the combination of national organizations that created the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

He and the leadership Conference were instrumental in the enactment of the first extensive Federal civil rights laws since Reconstruction, the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act, the fundamental Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the pivotal Fair Housing Act of 1968. They have been critical to our civil rights efforts at every turn every since.

The statement of purpose he drafted for the Leadership Conference says a great deal about this extraordinary man and his dedication to the rights of all:

We are committed to an integrated, democratic, plural society in which every individual is accorded equal rights, equal opportunities and equal justice and in which every group is accorded an equal opportunity to enter fully into the general life of the society with mutual acceptance and regard for difference.

Arnie went on to help organize clergy, churches, and synagogues. He was a founding member of the National Urban Coalition and a charter member of Common Cause. In the last 10 years, while well in his 70's, he assumed the presidency of the Leadership Conference Education Fund and helped invigorate its educational and public service activities.

While he gave leadership and inspiration to the country he never forgot his family. I know the influence he had on his niece and nephew, Jenette and Si Kahn.

Their lives were changed as were ours. I wish him a happy birthday.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 10, the Federal debt stood at \$5,354,330,021,048.50.

One year ago, March 10, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,017,404,000,000.

Five years ago, March 10, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,848,675,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 10, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,249,369,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, March 10, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,048,663,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion, \$4,305,667,021,048.50 during the past 15 years.

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.)

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-1342. A communication from the Acting Architect of the Capitol, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of all expenditures from April 1 through September 30, 1996; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1343. A communication from the Administrator of the Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to Child Nutrition Programs, (RIN0584-AC15) received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1344. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to approval of applications, received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1345. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to financial reports, received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1346. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to contract market review, received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1347. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to brucellosis in cattle, received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1348. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Depart-

ment of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to quarantine regulations, received on March 7, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1349. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1996 annual report under the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1350. A communication from the Director of Fiscal Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1351. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1352. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1353. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1996 annual report of the Bank under the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1354. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1995 annual report of the Bank under the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1355. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1356. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1357. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1358. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1359. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1360. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1361. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice concerning a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1362. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "National Flood Insurance Program" (RIN3067-AC54) received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1363. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report relative to Regular Trade Adjustment Assistance for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1364. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Information Agency, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1365. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program" (RIN0906-AA36) received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1366. A communication from the Congressional Affairs Officer of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, an errata sheet; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1367. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1368. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of rules received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1369. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of twenty rules including a rule relative to Airworthiness Directives (RIN2120-AA64, AA65, AA66, AE47, AE92); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1370. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology of the National Institute of Standards and Technology for 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1371. A communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, five rules including a rule entitled "American Lobster Fishery" (RIN0648-XX81, AJ48, XX72); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1372. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a program for flood damage reduction; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1373. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, five rules including a rule entitled "Clofencet" (FRL5679-4, 5591-9, 5593-1, 5592-2, 5591-7) received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1374. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Truck Size and Weight" (RIN2125-AE08) received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1375. A communication from the Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Endangered Status" (RIN1018-AC85) received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1376. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1377. A communication from the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health

Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1996 and the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1378. A communication from the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Executive Agency Ethics Training Program Regulation Amendments" (RIN3209-AA07) received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1379. A communication from the Human Resources Manager of CoBank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1380. A communication from the Executive Director of the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning procurement; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1381. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1382. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the correctional complex in Lorton, Virginia; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1383. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-533 adopted by the Council on January 7, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1384. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-534 adopted by the Council on January 7, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1385. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-15 adopted by the Council on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1386. A communication from the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 12-5 adopted by the Council on February 4, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

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

Keith R. Hall, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's 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. BOND (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. INOUE, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DASCHLE,

Mr. BREAUX, Mr. HELMS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KERREY, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 419. 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. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. BUMPERS):

S. 420. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase in by the year 2000 a 100 percent deduction for the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 421. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish the Patent and Trademark Office as a Government corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. DODD):

S. 422. A bill to define the circumstances under which DNA samples may be collected, stored, and analyzed, and genetic information may be collected, stored, analyzed, and disclosed, to define the rights of individuals and persons with respect to genetic information, to define the responsibilities of persons with respect to genetic information, to protect individuals and families from genetic discrimination, to establish uniform rules that protect individual genetic privacy, and to establish effective mechanisms to enforce the rights and responsibilities established under this Act; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ROBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 423. A bill to extend the legislative authority for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to honor George Mason; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 424. A bill to adjust the Federal medical assistance percentage determined for Alaska under the medicaid program to reflect Alaska's cost-of-living; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 425. A bill to provide for an accurate determination of the cost of living; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. INOUE, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DASCHLE and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 419. 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.

THE BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1997. I introduce this on behalf of myself, Senators LOTT, DASCHLE, HOLLINGS, HUTCHINSON of Arkansas, COCHRAN, KOHL, INOUE, MOYNIHAN, CHAFEE, and BREAUX.

The March of Dimes and their volunteers are here today to lend support to an often overlooked, but a very compelling health care problem in the