

will lose a generation of consumers and gain a generation of dependents; an outcome that no one wants. I am confident that Alexis Herman's talent and experience will propel the efforts to improve retirement security forward and I would welcome the opportunity to work with her on this issue.

I would like to emphasize that I believe that one of Ms. Herman's greatest strengths is that she has formed partnerships with both business and labor in her many years working on employment issues. She understands the kind of investment business must make in human capital to improve productivity, increase profits, and create new jobs. She understands how difficult it is for small businesses to start up, and also how important these small businesses are to the economy as a whole. She understands that people want to work, and that they need the opportunity to be trained so that they can become productive members of the work force. She understands that we are all in this together.

Alexis Herman has spent many years serving the people and the country. I believe that there could be no better candidate for Secretary of Labor than Alexis Herman. She is an outstanding public servant. Her confirmation will make history; as Secretary of Labor she will make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans and workers throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to support the nomination of Alexis Herman to be Secretary of Labor and I look forward to her rapid confirmation.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 17, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,363,306,532,631.89.

Five years ago, March 17, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,858,355,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 17, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,247,176,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, March 17, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,049,729,000,000.

Twenty-five years ago, March 17, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$429,286,000,000 which reflects a debt in-

crease of nearly \$5 trillion (\$4,934,020,532,631.89) during the past 25 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. PAUL CURRIE ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, Senator Christopher S. "Kit" BOND and I would like to share with our colleagues in the U.S. Senate the example of a man who has been a model of citizenship, character, and service to humanity throughout his lifetime. The gentleman about whom I speak is Dr. Paul Currie, who will soon retire as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Caruthersville.

On September 22, 1983, Dr. Paul Currie was present in this Chamber serving as Chaplain and offering the opening prayer. While this is historically an honor for any individual, we believe it was more of an honor for the U.S. Senate to have Dr. Currie serving in this chamber. Indeed, we believe the nearly four decades of service rendered to the community of Caruthersville, MO, serves as the real testimony to his compassion for his fellow man.

Since arriving in Caruthersville in 1958, Dr. Currie has always sought to reach beyond the lines of faith and unite all denominations in service to those in need. We can take faith that there are others who have been inspired by Dr. Currie and now live outside our great state, serving others.

Although Dr. Currie will be retiring, we will never forget his leadership. This veteran of the Korean war, this humble servant of God, community, and family, deserves to be recognized for his decades of service to his fellow man.

Senator BOND and I recognize today not only a lifetime of accomplishments by Dr. Currie, but also his inspiration of others. His example will inspire others to seek to enhance freedom, opportunity, and family life for generations to come.

In closing, I would like to quote a few words from Matthew 25:21, which I feel summarizes Dr. Paul Currie's many great deeds: "Well done, my good and faithful servant!"

We congratulate Dr. Currie on his retirement and extend him our best wishes for health and happiness for many years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 274(b)(2) of Public Law 104-264, the Speaker appoints to the National Civil Aviation Review Commission the following members from private life on the part of the House: Mr. John J. O'Connor of Pennsylvania and Mr. D. Scott Yohe of Washington, DC.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section

274(b)(2) of Public Law 104-264, the minority leader appoints to the National Civil Aviation Review Commission the following members from private life on the part of the House: Col. Leonard Griggs (retired) of Missouri and Mr. John O'Brien of Virginia.

At 6:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 924. An act to amend title 18, United States code, to give further assurance to the rights of victims of crime to attend and observe the trials of those accused of the crime.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.J. Res. 58. Joint resolution disapproving the certification of the President under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 regarding foreign assistance for Mexico during fiscal year 1997.

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-1436. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) plan; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1437. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a request for supplemental relative to the National Transportation Safety Board; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1438. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice concerning a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1439. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of approval for a personnel management demonstration project for the Department of the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1440. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Joint Demilitarization Technology Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1441. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Government Securities Sales Practices," (RIN3064-AB66) received on March 14, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1442. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advances to Nonmembers"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1443. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the Costal Service Costal Management, (RIN0648-ZA27) received on March 17, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1444. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to air bags, (RIN2127-AG59) received on March 17, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1445. A communication from the Secretary of the Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Child Support Enforcement Incentive Funding; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1446. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to the authorize appropriations for the Department of State to carry out its authorities and responsibilities in the conduct of foreign affairs during fiscal years 1998 and 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1447. A communication from the Executive Director of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a draft of proposed legislation to privatize the Commission; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1448. A communication from the Acting Secretary Secretary, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1996 annual report on voting practices at the United Nations.

EC-1449. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to provide for the division, use and distribution of judgment funds; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-1450. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to provide for the division, use and distribution of judgment funds; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-1451. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1452. A communication from the Director of the National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Committee of Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1453. A communication from the Director and Chairperson of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, National Institute On Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Disability Research: Accomplishments and Recommendations For Federal Coordination"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1454. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1455. A communication from the Chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1456. A communication from the Executive Director of the Interstate Commission

on the Potomac River Basin, 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 October 1, 1995 through September 30, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1457. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1458. A communication from the Acting Chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1459. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1460. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1461. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules including a rule entitled "Inspection and Expedited Removal of Aliens" (RIN1115-AE24, AE02, AD74) received on March 14, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1462. A communication from the Maritime Administrator, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1463. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to leased commercial access, received on March 18, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1464. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Availability of Funds and Collection of Checks," received on March 18, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1465. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine rules including a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans," (FRL5700-9, 5691-8, 5707-7, 5708-8, 5701-8, 5700-3, 5708-7, 5708-3, 5707-9) received on March 18, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1466. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Ruling 97-14, received on March 17, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1467. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Presidential Determination 97-19; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1468. A communication from Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory 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-1469. A communication from the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch," (RIN3209-AA04) received on March 12, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POW-45. A resolution adopted by the city of Pulaski, TN relative to Poland; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Donna Holt Cunningham, of Maryland, to be chief financial officer, Corporation for National and Community Service (new position), to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

Dave Nolan Brown, of Washington, to be a member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 1998.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Arthur I. Blaustein, of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2002.

Lorraine Weiss Frank, of Arizona, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2002.

Susan Ford Wiltshire, of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2002.

Nathan Leventhal, of New York, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2002.

U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Joseph Lane Kirkland, of the District of Columbia, to be member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2001.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY

Jon Deveaux, of New York, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term expiring October 12, 1998.

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

Magdalena G. Jacobsen, of Oregon, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 1999.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

M.R.C. Greenwood, of California, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2002.

John A. Armstrong, of Massachusetts, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2002.

Stanley Vincent Jaskolski, of Ohio, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2002.

Jane Lubchenko, of Oregon, to be a member of the National Science Board, National