

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

REPORT OF A PROPOSED RESCISSION OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 23

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one proposed rescission of budgetary resources, totaling \$10 million.

The proposed rescission affects the Department of Energy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 1997.

REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 24

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 Environment and Public Works.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress the Twenty-fifth Annual Report on Environmental Quality.

As a nation, the most important thing we can do as we move into the 21st century is to give all our children the chance to live up to their God-given potential and live out their dreams. In order to do that, we must offer more opportunity and demand more responsibility from all our citizens. We must help young people get the education and training they need, make our streets safer from crime, help Americans succeed at home and at work, protect our environment for generations to come, and ensure that America remains the strongest force for peace and freedom in the world. Most of all, we must come together as one community to meet our challenges.

Our Nation's leaders understood this a quarter-century ago when they launched the modern era of environmental protection with the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA's authors understood that environmental protection, economic opportunity, and social responsibility are interrelated. NEPA determined that the Federal Government should work in concert with State and local governments and citizens "to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans."

We've made great progress in 25 years as we've sought to live up to that chal-

lenge. As we look forward to the next 25 years of environmental progress, we do so with a renewed determination. Maintaining and enhancing our environment, passing on a clean world to future generations, is a sacred obligation of citizenship. We all have an interest in clean air, pure water, safe food, and protected national treasures. Our environment is, literally, our common ground.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:00 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. 412. An act to approve a settlement agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District.

H.R. 514. An act to permit the waiver of District of Columbia residency requirements for certain employees of the Office of the Inspector General of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 672. An act to make technical amendments to certain provisions of title 17, United States Code.

H.R. 927. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for appointment of United States marshals by the Attorney General.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 410. A bill to extend the effective date of the Investment Advisers Supervision Coordination Act.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

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

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 672. An act to make technical amendments to certain provisions of title 17, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 927. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for appointment of United States marshals by the Attorney General; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 471. A bill to amend the Television Program Improvement Act of 1990 to restore the

applicability of that Act to agreements relating to voluntary guidelines governing telecast material and to revise the agreements on guidelines covered by that Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. MACK, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. REID, Mr. BREAUX, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 472. A bill to provide for referenda in which the residents of Puerto Rico may express democratically their preferences regarding the political status of the territory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Mr. NICKLES):

S. 473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the standards used for determining that certain individuals are not employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 474. A bill to amend sections 1081 and 1084 of title 18, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 475. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the excise tax treatment of draft cider; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 476. A bill to provide for the establishment of not less than 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs of America facilities by the year 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 477. A bill to amend the Antiquities Act to require an Act of Congress and the consultation with the Governor and State legislature prior to the establishment by the President on national monuments in excess of 5,000 acres; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself and Mr. CLELAND):

S. 478. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 475 Mulberry Street in Macon, Georgia, as the "William Augustus Boodie Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TORRICELLI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KERREY, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 479. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide estate tax relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 480. A bill to repeal the restrictions on welfare and public benefits for aliens; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN):

S. 481. A bill to prohibit certain abortions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. SHELBY):

S. Con. Res. 13. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten Commandments by Judge Roy S. Moore, a judge on the circuit court of the State of Alabama; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 471. A bill to amend the Television Program Improvement Act of 1990 to restore the applicability of that Act to agreements relating to voluntary guidelines governing telecast material and to revise the agreements on guidelines covered by that Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

THE TELEVISION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I would like to address the body today on legislation that I am introducing, along with Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator DEWINE, and Senator KOHL, an act called the Television Improvement Act of 1997. It is my sincere hope that this bill will help solve one of our nation's most troubling problems.

I am fresh off the campaign trail, as the Senator from Georgia is fresh off the campaign trail. Throughout the 1996 campaign, I traveled across the State of Kansas and talked with thousands of people. I came away from that experience convinced that the most important task that we as a Nation face today is renewing the American culture.

I can recall countless meetings where individuals, particularly parents, would come up to me worried about the future of the American culture, particularly as it affects their children, and they constantly felt they were having to fight the culture to raise their kids. They hearken back to a time when they didn't feel like they were so opposed by the nature of the American culture. They recall a time when the culture was supportive of what they were doing and helped them in raising a good and solid family. They were just pleading for help. "Help us be able to come to a point where we can effectively raise our children. Don't make us have to constantly fight our culture."

Hollywood is the center of gravity for the American culture and, increasingly, the world's culture. Hollywood has changed the culture in this country, and, unfortunately, it has led to a decline in our culture. Over the past 15 years, television has made our children think that violence is OK, that sexuality out of wedlock is expected and encouraged, and that criminal activity is OK. Well, these things are not OK, and it's time the industry changed television to make it easier for parents to raise children.

The Television Improvement Act of 1997 is intended to encourage the broadcasting industry to make raising children easier. What it intends to do is to allow the broadcast industry—the television, cable, and motion picture industries to enter into, again, a code of conduct comparable to the one they used until 1983. They would once again be able to say that there is a standard below which they will not go, and they can collaborate to establish that standard without running afoul of Federal antitrust laws.

Previously, the NAB had a self-imposed code of conduct that governed television content. The code recognized the impact of television on our children as well as the responsibility that broadcasters shared in providing programming that used television's influence carefully. However, in 1983, a Federal district court determined that some of the advertising provisions of the code violated Federal antitrust laws.

Although the court did not rule that any of the code's programming standards violated antitrust laws, the NAB decided to stop using the entire code. The past 15 years have demonstrated that the code of conduct is sorely missed. Television has declined over the past 15 years, in no small part due to the absence of the code. I don't think anybody in this body could argue—or in this country who would disagree—that the nature of American television has declined over the past 15 years.

Let me read for the body a statement that is from the old code of conduct that the National Association of Broadcasters used until 1983. It sounds almost quaint today. But listen to the content of what the industry itself had before. It says:

Above and beyond the requirements of the law, broadcasters must consider the family atmosphere in which many of their programs are viewed. There shall be no graphic portrayal of sexual acts by sight or sound. The portrayal of implied sexual acts must be essential to the plot and presented in a responsible and tasteful manner.

I do not think there would be many people today who would say that this reflects the nature of television today. But I think many Americans today would say, "That is what I want television to be today so I don't have to always fight the TV to raise my kids."

It is not enough for everybody to say, "Just turn it off." My wife and I are raising three children. It is a little tougher than just saying, "Turn it off." It is about being there all the time. We are trying. One of us is there all the time. It is also not enough to say, "Well, we have a rating code so you know what is on television."

We are pleading with the industry, saying, "Let's go back to that time when you used a code because television was better then and it so directly impacts the culture and the soul of America." The average American spends 5 hours a day watching TV.

Most would liken it to a stovepipe of black soot going into the mind and into the soul. Why don't we change that back to the way it used to be, and have it as a well of fresh spring water going into the mind and into the soul?

The industry is fully capable of doing this. Witness some of the current shows, especially "Touched by an Angel," which is a leading show by CBS today. It is a good, positive, and uplifting show. But, sadly, there are far more that are far more degrading that would lead one more to the stovepipe analogy rather than the fresh spring well water.

We are pleading with the industry with this bill. This bill provides no additional authority to the Federal Government; not an ounce of additional authority to the FCC. It is a plea to the industry to help us. We are having trouble. The American family has been under attack. In many places it has disintegrated. In our inner cities we have 70 percent of our children born to single moms. In many places we no longer have families, one of the basic tenets of culture.

We are asking by this very simple act and pleading with the industry. "Let's go back to the time when television did not hurt our lives." And we are not suggesting censorship. If we have a better product coming out of this industry, we will have a better American culture. We will have a better world culture because Hollywood is the center of gravity for not only this culture but increasingly the world's culture. It is coming up time and time again.

So we are introducing this bill today, a bipartisan bill, requesting that the industry negotiate and work together on a code of conduct the like of which it had before.

We will be holding hearings in the Governmental Affairs Committee. We have been joined by the chairman and the ranking member of the appropriate Judiciary subcommittee who are co-sponsoring this bill. We anticipate that they will have hearings on it as well. It is a follow-on to Senator Simon's work in this area in 1990. We hope that it will be much more successful. If it is not, there will be further action coming to try to address this corrosive effect that, unfortunately, television has on our society and, indeed, on the world.

So, Mr. President, we are introducing this bill today asking the industry for help to lead our culture back to a brighter and a better time. They can do it. They are capable of doing it.

Mr. President, again, let me say that I am pleased to introduce today with Senators LIEBERMAN, DEWINE, and KOHL, the Television Improvement Act of 1997, a bill that I believe will help solve one of our Nation's most troubling problems. Throughout the 1996 campaign, I traveled across the State of Kansas and talked with thousands of