

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:58 a.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. 858. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot project on designated lands within Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forests in the State of California to demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource management activities proposed by the Quincy Library Group and to amend current land and resource management plans for these national forests to consider the incorporation of these resource management activities.

At 4 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2014) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: For consideration of the House bill, and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. KASICH, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. CRANE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. DELAY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, and Mr. MATSUI.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 702 and 704 of the Senate amendment, modifications committed to conference: Mr. SHUSTER, Ms. MOLINARI, and Mr. OBERSTAR.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of sections 713-14, 717, 879, 1302, 1304-5, and 1311 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. FAWELL, and Mr. PAYNE.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2015) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(1) and (c) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

For consideration of the House bill, and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. KASICH, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. DELAY, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. BONIOR, and Mr. FAZIO.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Agriculture, for consideration of title I of the House bill, and title I of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. STENHOLM.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for consideration of title II of the House bill, and title II of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. LEACH, Mr. LAZIO, and Mr. GONZALEZ.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of subtitles A-C of title III of the House bill, and title IV of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. SCHAEFER of Colorado, and Mr. DINGELL.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of subtitle D of title III of the House bill, and subtitle A of title III of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. TAUZIN, and Mr. DINGELL.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of subtitles E and F of title III, titles IV and X of the House bill, and divisions 1 and 2 of title V of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. DINGELL.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of subtitle A of title V and subtitle A of title IX of the House bill, and chapter 2 of division 3 of title V of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. CLAY.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of subtitles B and C of title V of the House bill, and title VII of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. KILDEE.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of subtitle D of title V of the House bill, and chapter 7 of division 4 of title V of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. FAWELL, and Mr. PAYNE.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for consideration of title VI of the House bill, and subtitle A of title VI of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BURTON, Mr. MICA, and Mr. WAXMAN.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of title VII of the House bill, and subtitle B of title III and subtitle B of title VI of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. OBERSTAR.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Veterans Affairs, for consideration of title VIII of the House bill, and title VIII of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. STUMP, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. EVANS.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of subtitle A of title V and title IX of the House bill, and divisions 3 and 4 of title V of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. ARCHER, Mr. SHAW, Mr. CAMP, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. LEVIN.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of titles IV and X of the House bill, and division 1 of title V of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. ARCHER, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. STARK.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 858. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot project on designated lands within Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forests in the State of California to demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource management activities proposed by the Quincy Library Group and to amend current land and resource management plans for these national forests to consider the incorporation of these resource management activities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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-2435. A communication from the Lieutenant General, USA Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to disaster relief in Rwanda; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2436. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a proposed license for defense equipment under the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2437. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a proposed license for the export of defense articles under the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2438. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a proposed Manufacturing License Agreement with a Romanian company; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2439. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a proposed license for the export of defense articles to Germany; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2440. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a proposed Manufacturing License Agreement to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2441. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an audit for the period

from January 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2442. A communication from the Director, Executive Office for U.S. Trustees, U.S. Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Qualifications and Standards for Standing Trustees", received on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2443. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2444. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Justice Programs Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2445. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Victims' Rights Act of 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2446. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Child Support Recovery Amendments Act of 1997"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2447. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Register Certifying Officer, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Collection of Past-Due Support by Administrative Offset", received on June 2, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2448. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to trades rules, received on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2449. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to emigration laws; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2450. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to applicable percentage, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2451. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to the applicable percentage for oil and gas produced, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2452. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to reference price, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2453. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the strategic plan under the Government Performance and Results Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2454. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to reporting transfers, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2455. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to institute a ticket system; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2456. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to Papaya, Carambola, and Litchi from Hawaii, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2457. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to the Gypsy Moth, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2458. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to spearmint oil, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2459. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to upper Florida marketing, received on July 9, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2460. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to the sugar loan program, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2461. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to potatoes grown in Washington, received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2462. A communication from the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to fees for inspection; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2463. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, opposition to the Cochran-Durbin and Spence-Dellums amendments; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2464. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, opposition to restraint of the Cooperative Threat Reduction program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2465. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the railroad retirement system under the Railroad Retirement Act; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2466. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to monetary penalties for inflation (RIN 1212-AA86), received on July 8, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

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:

POM-166. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Finance.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest integrated health

care provider in the United States, with more than 200,000 employees and an annual budget of over \$16,000,000,000; and

Whereas, the VHA is under scrutiny by the President and the Congress of the United States to become a more cost-efficient health care delivery system; and

Whereas, as a group, VHA patients are older, sicker and poorer than persons using private health care facilities; and

Whereas, Medicare is not presently reimbursable to the VHA; and

Whereas, providing for Medicare reimbursement for health care services at a VHA facility would offer veterans more options and reduce the amount of other Federal funding utilized by the system; and

Whereas, United States Representative Bob Stump of Arizona has introduced House Resolution 1362 which would establish a demonstration project to provide for Medicare reimbursement for health care services provided to certain Medicare-eligible veterans in selected facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania has the fifth largest veteran population in the United States and would be a statistically significant choice for a demonstration program; and

Whereas, Veterans Integrated Service Network Number Four (VISN 4) includes all of the Veterans Administration Medical Centers in Pennsylvania and two Veterans Administration Medical Centers in states contiguous to Pennsylvania; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania memorialize Congress to select VISN 4 to participate in the demonstration project provided for in House Resolution 1362 and to participate in all demonstration programs for Medicare-eligible veterans; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-167. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Finance.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax generates a minimal amount of Federal revenue, especially considering the high cost of collection and compliance, and has been shown to decrease those Federal revenues from what they might otherwise have been; and

Whereas, this "death tax" has been identified as destructive to job opportunity and expansion, especially to minority entrepreneurs and family farmers; and

Whereas, this "death tax" causes severe hardship to growing family businesses and family farming operations, often to the point of partial or complete forced liquidation, thereby depriving state and local governments of an important ongoing source of revenue; and

Whereas, critical state and local leadership assets are unnecessarily destroyed and forever lost to the future detriment of the community through relocation or liquidation; and

Whereas, local and state schools, churches and numerous charitable activities would greatly benefit from the increased employment and continued family business leadership; therefore be it

Resolved (the House of Representatives concurring), That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to immediately review the Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax and to act either to repeal the law, or to give special exemptions to family owned farms and businesses, or to raise the