

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

ANNIVERSARY OF SUBMISSION OF COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY TO SENATE FOR RATIFICATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, September 23rd was the 2-year anniversary of submission of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to the US Senate for ratification.

Both Republican and Democratic presidents over the span of 4 decades have worked to enhance our national security by negotiating limits on nuclear testing. Progress has been slow and halting, but the inescapable logic of improving security by banning nuclear tests has prevailed. The successful negotiation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, signed by 152 countries, was the culmination of these decades of effort on the part of the United States. Ratification and entry into force of this treaty is in our best interest and in the best interest of nuclear non-proliferation and international stability.

Mr. President, I have urged the Committee on Foreign Relations to hold hearings on this treaty. I know the Chairman has concerns about the treaty. I hope he will air them in a forum that will allow discussion of his concerns and those of other Members of the Committee. And I urge the Majority Leader to bring this treaty to the Senate floor. Time is of the essence on this matter. America has been the world leader on this issue and was the primary architect of this treaty. We have an obligation to take up this treaty in the Senate, to educate ourselves on its provisions and to debate the merits of its ratification. The eyes of the world are on our actions as the 44 countries who have ratified the treaty prepare to meet on October 6th in Vienna, Austria, to discuss implementation of the treaty. I would vastly prefer that the United States were sitting as a party at that meeting. But at a minimum, we should use this opportunity to make progress on the treaty here in the Senate.

We have an obligation to future generations to improve the national security of our nation. It would be irresponsible of us to let slip out of our grasp a very important tool in the fight against nuclear proliferation.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, September 24, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,638,915,059,997.81 (Five trillion, six hundred thirty-eight billion, nine hundred fifteen million, fifty-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-seven dollars and eighty-one cents).

One year ago, September 24, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,523,268,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-

three billion, two hundred sixty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, September 24, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,566,734,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred sixty-six billion, seven hundred thirty-four million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 24, 1974, the Federal debt stood at \$480,939,000,000 (Four hundred eighty billion, nine hundred thirty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,157,976,059,997.81 (Five trillion, one hundred fifty-seven billion, nine hundred seventy-six million, fifty-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-seven dollars and eighty-one cents) during the past 25 years.

THE VA/HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to express my support for the amendment offered last Friday by Senator KERRY to fund 50,000 new Section 8 vouchers. Had the Senate voted on this amendment, I would have voted in favor of it. I am pleased that Senator MIKULSKI and others have committed to work on this issue in conference.

The Kerry amendment is particularly important to my home state in light of the current affordable housing crisis in California. Eleven of the twenty-five least affordable metropolitan areas are located in California. The homeownership rate is 47th among the 50 states. More than one-third of homeowners and one-half of renters pay more than thirty percent of their income for housing in California. On average, it takes more than three years to receive a Section 8 voucher in California. In Los Angeles, approximately 8,000 families are currently on the Section 8 waiting list and it can take as long as eight years to get a voucher. That is just too long for a family to wait for affordable housing.

It is clear that in California, and indeed throughout the country, there is a definite need for further housing assistance.

Section 8 housing assistance serves the poorest of the poor, persons with incomes averaging approximately \$7,500 per year. Last year, Congress made available almost 100,000 new Section 8 vouchers. No new vouchers had been made available in the past five years. That was an important first step—but it is time to do more. In my own state of California, almost 13,000 families would receive Section 8 assistance under the Kerry amendment.

Our economy is booming: unemployment is at historically low levels, nearly 18 million jobs have been created since 1993, and the inflation rate has averaged just 2.5 percent since 1993—the lowest rate since the Kennedy Administration.

In these economic good times, however, the gap between rich and poor continues to grow. We must continue to assure that everyone in this country has affordable housing.

I urge my colleagues on the conference committee to provide additional Section 8 vouchers to America's families in need of housing assistance.

Mr. President, I also want to talk about the provision in this bill that would eliminate HUD's Community Builder program.

Community Builders act as liaison between HUD and local governments and non-profit organizations. They help local authorities identify the programs in HUD that best serve the needs of their neighborhoods.

Many experts have affirmed that HUD is becoming the model of reinvention. I believe that HUD's Community Builder program has been a key component of HUD's reinvention efforts.

The Community Builder program is working. Ernst & Young's initial audit found that the Builders are knowledgeable about HUD programs, are making customer service more efficient, assisting communities, and using their expertise to make government work better. A similar survey by Andersen Consulting found that "Community Builders have had a positive effect on the ability of [HUD] customers . . . to conduct business"—and recommended an expansion of the Community Builder program to cover more communities. In addition, I have received numerous letters from elected officials and non-profit organizations throughout California expressing support for the Community Builder program.

Approximately twenty HUD offices would be forced to close if the Community Builder program were eliminated—including one in Fresno, California.

I ask that my colleagues on the conference committee work together to find funding for this important program.

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.)

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA (UNITA)—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 61

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 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 27, 1999.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 1487. An act to provide for public participation in the declaration of national monuments under the Act popularly known as the Antiquities Act of 1906.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1487. An act to provide for public participation in the declaration of national monuments under the Act popularly known as the Antiquities Act of 1906; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 23, 1999, he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 1059. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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-5365. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dudin v. Commissioner" (99 T.C. 325 (1992)), received September 23, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5366. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "James J. and Sandra A. Gales v. Commissioner" (T.C. Memo 1999-27), received September 23, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5367. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"RJR Nabisco Inc., et al. v. Commissioner" (T.C. Memo 1998-252) received September 23, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5368. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Appeal of Proposed Adverse Determination of Tax-Exempt Status of Bond Issue" (Rev. Proc. 99-35, 1999-41 I.R.B.) received September 23, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5369. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ex Parte Communications Prohibition" (Notice 99-50, 1999-40 I.R.B.—, dated October 4, 1999) received September 23, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5370. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit Notice" (Notice 99-51) received September 23, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5371. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HOPWA" (Rev. Rul. 99-39) received September 23, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5372. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TD 8839, IRS Adoption Taxpayer Identification Numbers" (RIN1545-AV08), received September 22, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5373. A communication from the Acting Director, United States Information Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative management controls and financial management systems at the Agency; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5374. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefit Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans Education: Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty; Administrative Error" (RIN2900-AJ70), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

EC-5375. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversification Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Zaleplon into Schedule IV" (DEA-182F), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5376. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Corrections to Regulations Regarding the Issuance of Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Visas" (RIN1400-AB03), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5377. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Market Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "10b-18; Purchases of Certain Equity Securities by the Issuer and Others" (RIN3235-AH48), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5378. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Administrator of National Banks, Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Management Official Interlocks", received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5379. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to State member bank compliance with the national flood insurance program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5380. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Designing a Medical Device Surveillance Network"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5381. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Standards for Occupational Noise Exposure" (RIN1219-AA53), received September 8, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5382. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oklahoma Regulatory Program" (SPATS # OK-020-FOR), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5383. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterinary Services User Fees; Import or Entry Services at Ports" (Docket #98-006-2), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5384. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mexican Fruit Fly Regulations; Addition of Regulated Areas" (Docket #99-075-1), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5385. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oriental Fruit Fly; Designation of Quarantined Areas" (Docket #99-076-1), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5386. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Central Arizona Marketing Area-Suspension" (DA-99-05) , received September 22, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5387. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of the Sampling Techniques for Whole Block and Partial Block Diversion and Increasing the Number of Partial Block Diversions Per Season for Tart Cherries" (Docket No. FV99-930-2 FIR) , received September 22, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.