

pants, boots, hoods, gloves, and the like), personal pagers, personal accountability system to fulfill requirements of OSHA's two in two out rule, portable radios and personal hand lights. The need for new firefighting equipment is great in Vermont, because of the new OSHA regulations. I hope that the funds provided in this bill will be matched 50 percent with non-federal funds.

Further, it is my understanding that the funds will be administered by the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force supported by the George D. Aiken and the Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Mr. BOND. The Senator from Vermont has accurately described the intentions of the Conference Report accompanying the FY 2000 Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, October 19, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,670,293,241,725.48 (Five trillion, six hundred seventy billion, two hundred ninety-three million, two hundred forty-one thousand, seven hundred twenty-five dollars and forty-eight cents).

One year ago, October 19, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,541,765,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-one billion, seven hundred sixty-five million).

Five years ago, October 19, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,705,195,000,000 (Four trillion, seven hundred five billion, one hundred ninety-five million).

Ten years ago, October 19, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,876,712,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred seventy-six billion, seven hundred twelve million).

Fifteen years ago, October 19, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,592,001,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred ninety-two billion, one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,078,292,241,725.48 (Four trillion, seventy-eight billion, two hundred ninety-two million, two hundred forty-one thousand, seven hundred twenty-five dollars and forty-eight cents) 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.)

REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS IN COLOMBIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 67

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 (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

The White House, October 20, 1999.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:20 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 1497. An act to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program.

H.R. 1887. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish the depiction of animal cruelty.

H.R. 3046. An act to preserve limited Federal agency reporting requirements on banking and housing matters to facilitate congressional oversight and public accountability, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1405(b) of the Child Online Protection Act (47 U.S.C. 231), the Speaker appoints the following members on the part of the House to the Commission on Online Child Protection:

Mr. John Bastian of Illinois, engaged in the business of providing Internet filtering or blocking services or software.

Mr. William L. Schrader of Virginia, engaged in the business of providing Internet access services.

Mr. Stephen Balkam of Washington, D.C., engaged in the business of providing labeling or rating services.

Mr. J. Robert Flores of Virginia, and academic export in the field of technology.

Mr. William Parker of Virginia, engaged in the business of making content available over the Internet.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1405(b) of the Child Online Protection Act (47 U.S.C. 231), and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, the Speaker appoints the following members on the part of the House of the Commission on Online Child Protection:

Mr. James Schmidt of California, engaged in the business of making content available over the Internet.

Mr. George Vrandenburg of Virginia, engaged in the business of providing domain name registration services.

Mr. Larry Shapiro of California, engaged in the business of providing Internet portal or search services.

At 2:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2670) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 8:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2841. An act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdiction, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1497. An act to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program; to the Committee on Small Business.

H.R. 3046. An act to preserve limited Federal agency reporting requirements on banking and housing matters to facilitate congressional oversight and public accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read twice and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2140. An act to improve protection and management of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia.

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-367. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to trucks entering California from foreign nations; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 16

Whereas, A recent study by the United States Government Accounting Office (GAO) found that Mexican commercial trucks entering the United States often fail to meet basic safety standards; and

Whereas, The GAO reported that Mexican trucks entering the United States may have serious safety violations impacting highway safety, including broken suspension systems, substandard tires, inoperable brakes, overweight loads, and improperly maintained hazardous material loads; and

Whereas, The report of the federal Office of the Inspector General titled, "Motor Carrier

Safety Program for Commercial Trucks at U.S. Borders," issued on December 28, 1998, identified California as the only state that enforces the Federal Operating Authority Regulation and complimented California for having both the best inspection practices and the lowest out-of-service rate; and

Whereas, Mexico has no automated system by which California law enforcement officials can determine whether a Mexican commercial driver has a valid license or a driving or criminal record; and

Whereas, The government of Mexico has no laws limiting the maximum number of hours that drivers may safely operate a commercial vehicle and no system of worker's compensation insurance to protect drivers who are injured while at work; and

Whereas, Mexico's mandatory alcohol and drug testing program does not adequately test commercial drivers and its substance-abuse testing laboratory has not been certified by the United States Department of Transportation to meet internationally agreed-upon standards for accuracy; and

Whereas, "Operation Alliance," a federally sponsored drug-enforcement coordinating agency and the United States Customs Service drug-inspection program found that drug traffickers are becoming owners of, or are obtaining controlling interests in, transportation businesses, such as trucking companies, warehouses, and semi-trailer manufacturing companies, in order to take advantage of the increased trucking trade authorized by the North American Free Trade Agreement; and

Whereas, The Southern California Association of Governments recently passed a resolution authorizing its regional council to alert the President of the United States to the "major safety issues involved in trucking regulations under the North American Free Trade Agreement"; and

Whereas, The federal government has chosen not to implement the provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement that call for unlimited access by Mexican trucks to the territory of the State of California; now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to maintain the existing restrictions on trucks from Mexico and other foreign nations entering California and to continue efforts to ensure full compliance by the owners and drivers of those trucks with all highway safety, environmental, and drug-enforcement laws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Governor.

POM-368. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to block grant amounts to the states through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 48

Whereas, A key component of the welfare reforms enacted in 1996 is the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant program. The levels of these block grants were guaranteed for a five-year period as a means to help in the transformation of the nation's approach to welfare and helping people help themselves; and

Whereas, A proposal has surfaced in Washington to have the states return unobligated balances from the TANF block grant fund-

ing. The proposal has raised the concerns and opposition of state policymakers around the country who do not want the success of welfare reform to be derailed or threatened by reductions in this funding. This funding, as well as the flexibility to administer federal programs, is critical to genuine, meaningful, longstanding welfare reform; and

Whereas, Discussions on altering or reducing block grant programs for needy families also include proposed changes in Medicaid options, social services block grants, child support initiatives, and efforts to secure health insurance coverages for children. The possibility of bringing new conditions for the expenditure of funds or cuts in the amounts of block grants has generated considerable concern across the country; and

Whereas, The reforms brought to the country's approach to welfare in 1996 also represented a significant step in the relationship between Washington and the states. This new partnership allowed and even encouraged the "laboratories of democracy" to find solutions that account for the unique resources and needs of each state. Michigan's success and the similar achievements across the nation should not be jeopardized by Washington reclaiming money promised to the states; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to reject any reduction in block grant amounts to the states through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program or any changes in conditions or requirements that reduce the flexibility of the states, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

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-5707. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, a report relative to certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5708. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to pricing and shipping regulations, received October 15, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5709. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5710. A communication from the Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5711. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Agency Compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5712. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Time for Recharacterization of 1998 Roth IRA Contributions" (Announcement 99-104), received October 14, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5713. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to emergency funds made available to the State of New Jersey because of recent floods; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5714. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Gastroenterology and Urology Devices; Classification of the Electrogastrography System", received October 14, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5715. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General and Plastic Surgery Devices; Classification of the Nonreusable Gauze/Sponge for External Use, the Hydrophille Wound Dressing, the Occlusive Wound Dressing, and the Hydrogel Wound Dressing", received October 14, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5716. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Student Financial Assistance, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies" (RIN1845-AA09), received October 14, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5717. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program; Executing or Terminating Leases on Moderate Rehabilitation Units when Remaining Term of the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contract is for Less than One Year; Statutory Update-Interim Rule" (RIN2577-AB98) (FR-4472-I-01), received October 19, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5718. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Introduction to FHA Programs; CFR Correction" (FR-Doc. 99-55532), received October 19, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5719. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Introduction to FHA Programs; CFR Correction (Second Correction)" (FR-Doc. 99-55536), received October 19, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5720. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Mortgage Insurance; Clarification of Floodplain Requirements Applicable to New Construction; Final Rule" (RIN2502-AH16) (FR-4323-F-02), received October 19, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5721. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development,