

have, in addition, negotiated agreements with Russia that will reduce our overall steel imports from Russia by almost 70 percent, and hot-rolled steel imports from Russia by almost 90 percent this year. We have sought firm commitments from Korea to ensure that its steel industry is fully privatized and placed on a market footing, including through the elimination of improper subsidies.

The declines in imports from these countries since November have been dramatic. Hot-rolled exports from Russia fell from over 600,000 metric tons in November to roughly ten tons in February—a nearly 100 percent decline. Imports of hot-rolled steel from Japan fell in that period from over 400,000 tons to less than 5000 tons—a nearly 99 percent drop. Hot-rolled imports from Korea dropped 35 percent since November, while total steel imports from Korea are down 17 percent. And total steel imports from Brazil, which, along with those from Russia and Japan, are subject to an ongoing anti-dumping investigation, have dropped 64 percent since November.

The Department of Commerce has taken forceful steps to eliminate dumping, including issuing critical circumstances determinations only 45 days after initiating dumping investigations on hot-rolled steel, a policy that could result in retroactive application of dumping duties back to last November. Last month, following an expedited investigation, Commerce announced—a full month ahead of the usual time schedule—preliminary determinations that exporters in Japan, Russia and Brazil have dumped hot-rolled steel into our market. The Commerce Department is currently enforcing more than 100 antidumping and countervailing duty orders and suspension agreements on steel products and is currently conducting 45 new steel investigations.

We will continue to closely monitor steel imports, and—in an unprecedented new policy—have made preliminary steel import statistics available to the public up to 25 days earlier than under past practice. This will help the Administration, industry, and workers identify and respond to import trends more quickly.

At the same time, last year's import surge demonstrated that we need to look closely at our trade laws to ensure that they deliver strong, effective relief in an expeditious manner, while remaining consistent with our international trade obligations. We believe the legislation introduced in the House by Congressman Levin and Houghton constitutes a constructive approach, and we stand ready to work with Members of Congress to develop a bill we can recommend that the President sign.

In contrast, we strongly oppose legislation mandating quotas because it would constitute a violation of our international obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and would not be in our nation's economic interest. We are the world's largest exporter, and our firms and workers benefit tremendously from the international trading rules we helped put into place. Quotas or other import restraints imposed outside of WTO-consistent processes contained our trade laws (such as through our "section 201" safeguards law or antidumping and countervailing duty laws) violate our international trade obligations. Such quotas or import restraints would not be based on a determination of whether the imports are causing or threatening serious injury, or whether unfair trade or subsidization is involved, as required by the WTO and our laws.

Our current trade laws allow U.S. industry and workers to seek such determinations, based upon which we can impose quotas or other trade remedies consistent with our

international trade obligations. In addition, when the procedures provided by our trade laws are followed, we can take into account the full range of U.S. industry and worker concerns and fashion remedies that do not result in additional market distortions, import shortages, excessive price hikes or retaliation that could harm U.S. export industries and customers.

This Administration firmly believes that the best way to address unfair trade practices or import surges is through vigorous and timely enforcement and use of strong U.S. trade laws that are consistent with our international obligations, and we and our colleagues stand ready to work with you to ensure that objective is fully realized.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. DALEY,
Secretary of Commerce.

CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY,
U.S. Trade Representative.●

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

● Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedures of the Committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the first year of each Congress. The rules adopted by the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem to govern the Committee's procedures remain in effect and unchanged for the current Congress. Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I am submitting for printing in the RECORD a copy of the Rules of the Senate Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem.

The Rules follow:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

(S. Res. 208, 105th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1998))

RULES OF PROCEDURE

(Adopted March 25, 1999)

I. CONVENING OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

1. *Meetings.*—The Committee shall meet to conduct Committee business at the call of the Chairman.

2. *Special meetings.*—The Members of the Committee may call additional meetings as provided in Senate Rule XXVI (3).

3. *Notice and agenda:*

(a) *Hearings.*—The Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing at least 1 week before its commencement.

(b) *Meetings.*—The Chairman shall give the Members written notice of any Committee meeting, accompanied by an agenda enumerating the items of business to be considered, at least 5 days in advance of such meeting.

(c) *Shortened notice.*—A hearing or meeting may be called on not less than 24 hours notice if the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing or meeting on an expedited basis. An agenda will be furnished prior to such a meeting.

4. *Presiding officer.*—The Chairman shall preside when present. If the Chairman is not present at any meeting or hearing, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside. Any Member of the Committee may preside over the conduct of a hearing.

II. CLOSED SESSIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL MATERIALS

1. *Procedure.*—All meetings and hearings shall be open to the public unless closed pursuant to paragraph 3 of this section. To close a meeting or hearing or portion thereof, a motion shall be made and seconded to go into closed discussion of whether the meeting or hearing will concern the matters enumerated in Rule II.3. Immediately after such discussion, the meeting or hearing may be closed by a vote in open session of a majority of the Members of the Committee present.

2. *Witness request.*—Any witness called for a hearing may submit a written request to the Chairman no later than 24 hours in advance for his examination to be in closed or open session. The Chairman shall inform the Committee of any such request.

3. *Closed session subjects.*—A meeting or hearing or portion thereof may be closed if the matters are consistent with Senate Rule XXVI (5)(b).

4. *Confidential matter.*—No record made of a closed session, or material declared confidential by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or report of the proceedings of a closed session, shall be made public, in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

5. *Radio, television, and photography.*—The Committee may permit the proceedings of hearings which are open to the public to be photographed and broadcast by radio, television, or both, subject to such conditions as the Committee may impose.

III. QUORUMS AND VOTING

1. *Reporting.*—A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum for reporting a resolution, recommendation, or report to the Senate.

2. *Committee business.*—Three voting members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of Committee business, other than a final vote on reporting, providing a minority Member is present. One Member shall constitute a quorum for the receipt of evidence, the swearing of witnesses, and the taking of testimony at hearings.

3. *Polling:*

(a) *Subjects.*—The Committee may poll (1) internal Committee matters including those concerning the Committee's staff, records, and budget; (2) authorizing subpoenas; and (3) other Committee business which has been designated for polling at a meeting.

(b) *Procedure.*—The Chairman shall circulate polling sheets to each Member specifying the matter being polled and the time limit for completion of the poll. If any Member so requests in advance of the meeting, the matter shall be held for meeting rather than being polled. The clerk shall keep a record of polls. If the Chairman determines that the polled matter is one of the areas enumerated in Rule II.3, the record of the poll shall be confidential. Any Member may move at the Committee meeting following a poll for a vote on the polled decision.

IV. SUBPOENAS

1. *Subpoenas.*—Subpoenas may be authorized by the Committee at a meeting of the Committee or pursuant to Rule III.3(a). Subpoenas authorized by the Committee may be issued over the signature of the Chairman after consultation with the Vice Chairman, or any member of the special committee designated by the Chairman after consultation with the Vice Chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman or the member signing the subpoena.

V. HEARINGS

1. *Notice.*—Witnesses called before the Committee shall be given, absent extraordinary circumstances, at least 48 hours notice, and

all witnesses called shall be furnished with a copy of these rules upon request.

2. *Oath.*—All witnesses who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn. The Chairman or any Member may administer the oath.

3. *Statement.*—Any witness desiring to make an introductory statement shall file 50 copies of such statement with the clerk of the Committee 24 hours in advance of his appearance, unless the Chairman and Vice Chairman determine that there is good cause for a witness's failure to do so.

4. *Counsel.*

(a) A witness's counsel shall be permitted to be present during his testimony at any public or closed hearing, or staff interview to advise the witness of his rights, provided, however, that in the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Chairman may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness shall be represented by personal counsel not associated with the government, corporation, or association.

(b) A witness who is unable for economic reasons to obtain counsel may inform the Committee of this circumstance at least 48 hours prior to his appearance, and the Committee will endeavor to obtain volunteer counsel for the witness. Such counsel shall be subject solely to the control of the witness and not the Committee. Failure to obtain counsel shall not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

5. *Transcript.*—An accurate electronic or stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in closed and public hearings. Any witness shall be afforded, upon request, the right to review that portion of such record, and for this purpose, a copy of a witness's testimony in public or closed session shall be provided to the witness. Upon inspecting the transcript, within a time limit set by the committee clerk, a witness may request changes in testimony to correct errors of transcription, grammatical errors, and obvious errors of fact. The Chairman or a designated staff officer shall rule on such requests.

6. *Minority witnesses.*—Whenever any hearing is conducted by the Committee, the minority on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request made by a majority of the minority Members to the Chairman, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify or produce documents with respect to the measure or matter under consideration during at least one day of the hearing. Such request must be made before the completion of the hearing.

7. *Conduct of witnesses, counsel and members of the audience.*—If, during public or executive sessions, a witness, his counsel, or any spectator conducts himself in such a manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of such hearing, the Chairman or presiding Member of the Committee present during such hearing may request the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, his representative, or any law enforcement official to eject said person from the hearing room.

VI. AMENDMENT OF RULES

The rules of the Committee may be amended or revised at any time, by a majority vote of the Committee, provided that no less than 3 days notice of the amendments or revisions proposed was provided to all members of the committee.

JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

(a)(1) There is established a Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Special Committee") which shall consist of seven voting Members and two non-voting,

ex-officio Members. The two non-voting, ex-officio Members shall be the Chairman and the ranking minority Member of the Appropriations Committee. The Members and Chairman of the Special Committee shall be appointed in the same manner and at the same time as the Members and Chairman of a standing committee of the Senate. After the date on which the majority and minority Members of the Special Committee are initially appointed, but not before the effective date of title I of the Committee System Reorganization Amendments of 1977, each time a vacancy occurs in the Membership of the Special Committee, it shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments to it are made.

(2) For purposes of paragraph 1 of rule XXV; paragraphs 1, 7(a)(1)–(2), 9, and 10(a) of rule XXVI; and paragraphs 1 and 4 rule XXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and for purposes of section 72a (i) and (j), title 2, USCA, the Special Committee shall be treated as a standing committee of the Senate.

(b)(1) It shall be the duty of the Special Committee to study the impact of the year 2000 technology problem on the Executive and Judicial Branches of the Federal Government, State governments, and private sector operations in the United States and abroad; to make such findings of fact as are warranted and appropriate; and to make such recommendations, including recommendations for new legislation and amendments to existing laws and any administrative or other actions, as the Special Committee may determine to be necessary or desirable. No proposed legislation shall be referred to the Special Committee, and the Special Committee shall not have the power to report by bill, or otherwise have legislative jurisdiction.

(2) The Special Committee shall, from time to time, report to the Senate the results of the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1), together with such recommendations as the Special Committee considers appropriate.

(c)(1) For the purposes of this section, the Special Committee is authorized, in its discretion; (A) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate; (B) to employ personnel; (C) to hold hearings on any matter; (D) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate; (E) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents; (F) to take depositions and other testimony; (G) to procure the services of individual consultants or organizations thereof, in accordance with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946; and (H) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a non-reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(2) The Chairman of the Special Committee or any Member thereof may administer oaths to witnesses.

(3) Subpoenas authorized by the Special Committee may be issued over the signature of the Chairman after consultation with the Vice Chairman, or any Member of the Special Committee designated by the Chairman after consultation with the Vice Chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman or the Member signing the subpoena.

EXCERPTS FROM THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE RELATING TO STANDING COMMITTEES

RULE XXV—STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The following standing committees shall be appointed at the commencement of each

Congress, and shall continue and have the power to act until their successors are appointed, with leave to report by bill or otherwise on matters within their respective jurisdictions:

RULE XXVI—COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

3. Each standing committee (except the Committee on Appropriations) shall fix regular weekly, biweekly, or monthly meeting days for the transaction of business before the committee and additional meetings may be called by the chairman as he may deem necessary. If at least three members of any such committee desire that a special meeting of the committee be called by the chairman, those members may file in the offices of the committee their written request to the chairman for that special meeting. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the clerk of the committee shall notify the chairman of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the chairman does not call the requested special meeting, to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the committee may file in the offices of the committee their written notice that a special meeting of the committee will be held, specifying the date and hour of that special meeting. The committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the clerk of the committee shall notify all members of the committee that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour. If the chairman of any such committee is not present at any regular, additional, or special meeting of the committee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

5. (a) ***

(b) Each meeting of a committee, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in clauses (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

7. (a)(1) Except as provided in this paragraph, each committee, and each subcommittee thereof is authorized to fix the number of its members (but not less than one-third of its entire membership) who shall constitute a quorum thereof for the transaction of such business as may be considered by said committee, except that no measure or matter or recommendation shall be reported from any committee unless a majority of the committee were physically present.

(2) Each such committee, or subcommittee, is authorized to fix a lesser number than one-third of its entire membership who shall constitute a quorum thereof for the purpose of taking sworn testimony.

9. (a) Except as provided in subparagraph (b), each committee shall report one authorization resolution each year authorizing the committee to make expenditures out of the contingent fund of the Senate to defray its expenses, including the compensation of members of its staff and agency contributions related to such compensation, during the period beginning on March 1 of such year and ending on the last day of February of the following year. Such annual authorization resolution shall be reported not later than January 31 of each year, except that, whenever the designation of members of standing committees of the Senate occurs during the first session of a Congress at a date later than January 20, such resolution may be reported at any time within thirty days after the date on which the designation of such members is completed. After the annual authorization resolution of a committee for a year has been agreed to, such committee may procure authorization to make additional expenditures out of the contingent fund of the Senate during that year only by reporting a supplemental authorization resolution. Each supplemental authorization resolution reported by a committee shall amend the annual authorization resolution of such committee for that year and shall be accompanied by a report specifying with particularity the purpose for which such authorization is sought and the reason why such authorization could not have been sought at the time of the submission by such committee of its annual authorization resolution for that year.

(b) In lieu of the procedure provided in subparagraph (a), the Committee on Rules and Administration may—

(1) direct each committee to report an authorization resolution for a two-year budget period beginning on March 1 of the first session of a Congress; and

(2) report one authorization resolution containing more than one committee authorization resolution for a one-year or two-year budget period.

RULE XXVII—COMMITTEE STAFF

1. Staff members appointed to assist minority members of committees pursuant to authority of a resolution described in paragraph 9 of rule XXVI or other Senate resolu-

tion shall be accorded equitable treatment with respect to the fixing of salary rates, the assignment of facilities, and the accessibility of committee records.

4. No committee shall appoint to its staff any experts or other personnel detailed or assigned from any department or agency of the Government, except with the written permission of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

UNITED STATES CODE ANNOTATED

TITLE 2.—THE CONGRESS

§ 72a. Committee staffs

(i) Consultants for Senate and House standing committees; procurement of temporary or intermittent services; contracts; advertisement requirements inapplicable; selection method; qualifications report to Congressional committees

(1) Each standing committee of the Senate or House of Representatives is authorized, with the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration in the case of standing committees of the Senate, or the Committee on House Oversight in the case of standing committees of the House of Representatives, within the limits of funds made available from the contingent fund of the Senate or the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives pursuant to resolutions which, in the case of the Senate, shall specify the maximum amounts which may be used for such purpose, approved by the appropriate House, to procure the temporary services (not in excess of one year) or intermittent services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof, to make studies or advise the committee with respect to any matter within its jurisdiction or with respect to the administration of the affairs of the committee.

(2) Such services in the case of individuals or organizations may be procured by contract as independent contractors, or in the case of individuals by employment at daily rates of compensation not in excess of the per diem equivalent of the highest gross rate of compensation which may be paid to a regular employee of the committee. Such contracts shall not be subject to the provisions of section 5 of title 41 or any other provision of law requiring advertising.

(3) With respect to the standing committees of the Senate, any such consultant or organization shall be selected by the chairman and ranking minority member of the committee, acting jointly. With respect to the standing committees of the House of Representatives, the standing committee concerned shall select any such consultant or organization. The committee shall submit to the Committee on Rules and Administration in the case of standing committees of the Senate, and the Committee on House Oversight in the case of standing committees of the House of Representatives, information bearing on the qualifications of each consultant whose services are procured pursuant to this subsection, including organizations, and such information shall be retained by that committee and shall be made available for public inspection upon request.

(j) Specialized training for professional staffs of Senate and House standing committees, Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Majority and Minority Policy Committees, and joint committees whose funding is disbursed by Secretary of Senate or Chief Administrative Officer of House; assistance: pay, tuition, etc. while training; continued employment agreement; service credit; retirement, life insurance and health insurance

(1) Each standing committee of the Senate or House of Representatives is authorized, with the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration in the case of standing committees of the Senate, and the committee involved in the case of standing committees of the House of Representatives, and within the limits of funds made available from the contingent fund of the Senate or the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives pursuant to resolutions, which, in the case of the Senate, shall specify the maximum amounts which may be used for such purpose, approved by the appropriate House pursuant to resolutions, which shall specify the maximum amounts which may be used for such purpose, approved by such respective Houses, to provide assistance for members of its professional staff in obtaining specialized training, whenever that committee determines that such training will aid the committee in the discharge of its responsibilities. Any joint committee of the Congress whose expenses are paid out of funds disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Majority Policy Committee and Minority Policy Committee of the Senate are each authorized to expend, for the purpose of providing assistance in accordance with paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this subsection for members of its staff in obtaining such training, any part of amounts appropriated to that committee.

(2) Such assistance may be in the form of continuance of pay during periods of training or grants of funds to pay tuition, fees, or such other expenses of training, or both, as may be approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration or the Committee on House Administration, as the case may be.

(3) A committee providing assistance under this subsection shall obtain from any employee receiving such assistance such agreement with respect to continued employment with the committee as the committee may deem necessary to assure that it will receive the benefits of such employee's services upon completion of his training.

(4) During any period for which an employee is separated from employment with a committee for the purpose of undergoing training under this subsection, such employee shall be considered to have performed service (in nonpay status) as an employee of the committee at the rate of compensation received immediately prior to commencing such training (including any increases in compensation provided by law during the period of training) for the purposes of—

(A) subchapter III (relating to civil service retirement) of chapter 83 of title 5,

(B) chapter 87 (relating to Federal employees group life insurance) of title 5, and

(C) chapter 89 (relating to Federal employees group health insurance) of title 5.●

UNACCEPTABLE AND OUTRAGEOUS CUTS TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am very concerned about the drastic cuts the Republican budget makes to our foreign affairs budget. In his budget request, President Clinton asked for \$21.3 billion in funding for foreign affairs. The budget before us cuts \$3.2 billion from that request.

U.S. leadership around the world requires adequate resources both for embassy security and for international programs. As a member of the Foreign