

Inspection Service has a long, proud, and successful history of enforcing laws against those who would use the Nation's postal system to defraud, endanger, or otherwise harm the American people.

America has long entrusted her secrets and commerce to the Postal Service. Dedicated postal workers have delivered untold love letters from sweethearts, care packages from home, financial instruments from bankers, and mail-order parcels from merchants. Preserving this trust is the Postal Inspection Service. In days past, Postal Inspectors protected colonial America's post offices from theft and embezzlement and protected the American people from mail fraud swindles following the Civil War. Postal Inspectors solved the last known stagecoach robbery in the United States in 1916 and protected the transfer of the Nation's \$15.5 billion gold reserve from New York to Fort Knox in 1934. Postal Inspectors organized the massive military mail system during World War II and protected the priceless Hope Diamond when it was transferred to the Smithsonian Institution in 1958. In recent years, Postal Inspectors have conducted major investigations from Wall Street insider trading to child pornography to international art fraud. The Postal Inspection Service was one of three Federal law enforcement agencies assigned to the Unabomber task force.

As a testament to their reputation and professionalism, postal inspectors were selected by former Senator John Danforth to serve as the primary investigators looking into the confrontation at Waco, TX. In 1996, Postal Inspectors served on the Federal task force investigating the shootout at Ruby Ridge, ID.

In addition to its expertise as a Federal law enforcement agency, the Postal Inspection Service serves as the security arm of the U.S. Postal Service. When natural disasters or civil disorders occur, postal inspectors and postal police officers are among the first to respond, protecting the U.S. mail, postal workers, and property. Immediately following these emergencies, the Postal Inspection Service works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to re-establish basic Government mail service, and safeguards delivery of the tons of private relief and aid that is often sent through the U.S. mail.

The Service continues to work to preserve America's confidence in the U.S. mail, even as the Internet assumes a prominent role in our society. Just as it has adapted from stagecoach robberies to Wall Street insider trading schemes, the Postal Inspection Service has now set its sights on Internet fraudsters and cyber-criminals who use the U.S. mail as part of their schemes. It is appropriate that the Service is currently giving significant prevention and investigative attention to the issue of identity theft where thieves steal

other's identifying information—name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and mother's maiden name—to take over the victim's financial accounts.

Today, there are approximately 2,000 postal inspectors stationed throughout the United States responsible for enforcing more than 200 Federal criminal statutes.

As the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services, I have the privilege of providing legislative support and oversight of this distinguished department. I am continually impressed with the quality and breadth of service they provide the American public. In addition to a large cadre of postal inspectors, the Postal Inspection Service includes uniformed postal police officers, forensic specialists, and a host of other professional and technical employees. I thank the men and women of the Postal Inspection Service, and recognize them in this special way for their outstanding dedication and service to the country.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 Committee on Finance.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ENTITLED "A BLUE PRINT FOR NEW BEGINNINGS: A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET FOR AMERICA'S PRIORITIES"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 8

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 jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget.

To the Congress of the United States:

With a great sense of purpose, I present to the Congress my budget. It offers more than a plan for funding the Government for the next year; it offers a new vision for governing the Nation for a new generation.

For too long, politics in Washington has been divided between those who wanted big Government without regard to cost and those who wanted small Government without regard to need. Too often the result has been too few needs met at too high a cost. This budget offers a new approach—a dif-

ferent approach for an era that expects a Federal Government that is both active to promote opportunity and limited to preserve freedom.

Our new approach is compassionate:

It will revitalize our public schools by testing for achievement, rewarding schools that succeed, and giving more flexibility to parents of children in schools that persistently fail.

It will reinvigorate our civil society by putting Government on the side of faith-based and other local initiatives that work—that actually help Americans escape drugs, lives of crime, poverty, and despair.

It will meet our Nation's commitments to seniors. We will strengthen Social Security, modernize Medicare, and provide prescription drugs to low-income seniors.

This new approach is also responsible:

It will retire nearly \$1 trillion in debt over the next four years. This will be the largest debt reduction ever achieved by any nation at any time. It achieves the maximum amount of debt reduction possible without payment of wasteful premiums. It will reduce the indebtedness of the United States, relative to our national income, to the lowest level since early in the 20th Century and to the lowest level of any of the largest industrial economies.

It will provide reasonable spending increases to meet needs while slowing the recent explosive growth that could threaten future prosperity. It moderates the growth of discretionary spending from the recent trend of more than six percent to four percent, while allowing Medicare and Social Security to grow to meet the Nation's commitments to its retirees.

It will deliver tax relief to everyone who pays income taxes, giving the most dramatic reductions to the least affluent taxpayers. It will also give our economy a timely second wind and reduce the tax burden—now at the highest level as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product since World War II.

Finally, this new approach begins to confront great challenges from which Government has too long flinched. Social Security as it now exists will provide future beneficiaries with the equivalent of a dismal two percent real rate of return on their investment, yet the system is headed for insolvency. Our new approach honors our commitment to Social Security by reserving every dollar of the Social Security payroll tax for Social Security, strengthening the system by making further necessary reform feasible.

Medicare as it exists does not adequately care for our seniors in many ways, including the lack of prescription drug coverage. Yet Medicare spending already exceeds Medicare taxes and premiums by \$66 billion this year, and Medicare will spend \$900 billion more than it takes in over the next 10 years. Reform is urgently needed. Our new approach will safeguard Medicare by ensuring that the resources for reform will be available.

New threats to our national security are proliferating. They demand a re-thinking of our defense priorities, our force structure, and our military technology. This new approach begins the work of restoring our military, putting investments in our people first to recognize their importance to the military of the future.

It is not hard to see the difficulties that may lie ahead if we fail to act promptly. The economic outlook is uncertain. Unemployment is rising, and consumer confidence is falling. Excessive taxation is corroding our prosperity. Government spending has risen too quickly, while essential reforms, especially for our schools, have been neglected. And we have little time before the demographic challenge of Social Security and Medicare becomes a crisis.

We cannot afford to delay action to meet these challenges. And we will not. It will demand political courage to face these problems now, but I am convinced that we are prepared to work together to begin a new era of shared purposes and common principles. This budget begins the work of refining those purposes and those principles into policy—a compassionate, responsible, and courageous policy worthy of a compassionate, responsible, and courageous Nation.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 28, 2001.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:21 a.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 amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 94-304, as amended by section 1 of Public Law 99-7, and the order of the House of Wednesday, February 14, 2001, the Speaker on Thursday, February 15, 2001 appointed the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Co-chairman, Mr. WOLF of Virginia, Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania, Mr. WAMP of Tennessee, and Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 8002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Committee on Ways and Means designated the following Members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation for the 107th Congress: Mr. THOMAS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. SHAW, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. STARK.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 161(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211), the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to be accredited by the President as official advis-

ers to United States delegations to international conferences, meetings, and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements during the first session of the 107th Congress: Mr. THOMAS of California, Mr. CRANE of Illinois, Mr. SHAW of Florida, Mr. RANGEL of New York, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by 28 United States soldiers killed by an Iraqi missile attack on February 25, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, and resolving to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by 28 United States soldiers killed by an Iraqi missile attack on February 25, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, and resolving to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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-830. A communication from the Acting General Counsel for the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Report of Tabulation of Population to States and Localities Pursuant to 13 USC 141(c) and Availability of Other Population Information; Revocation of Delegation of Authority" (RIN0607-AA33) received on February 21, 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-831. A communication from the Acting Director of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report containing the list of government activities not inherently governmental in nature for the year 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-832. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-579, "Anthony W. Simms Tunnel Designation Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-833. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-581, "Freedom of Information Amendment Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-834. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-578, "Abatement and Condemnation of Nuisance Properties Omnibus Amendment Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-835. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-573, "Public Access to Auto-

mated External Defibrillator Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-836. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-575, "Individuals with Disabilities Parking Reform Amendment Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-837. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-602, "Galen Tait Memorial Park Designation Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-838. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-601, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 741, S.O. 00-82, Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-839. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-600, "Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-840. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 10-594, "Tree Protection Amendment Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-841. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-598, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 209, S.O. 2000-37, Temporary Act of 2001"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-842. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-596, "Fire/EMS Excepted Service Designation Temporary Amendment Act of 2001"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-843. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-592, "Motor Vehicle and Safe Driving Amendment Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-844. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-574, "Technical Amendments Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-845. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-577, "Fair Phone Charges for Prisoners Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-846. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-582, "Waverly Alley Designation Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-847. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-588, "John T. 'Big John' Williams Building Designation Temporary Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-848. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-589, "Necessity for Council Review and Approval of Standards for Public Art on Special Signs in the District of Columbia Temporary Act of 2001"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-849. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report