

the aid of horses to build the track. During this time, many of the women of Claire City would sell meals from their homes to help feed weary railroad workers.

After the railroad was completed in the fall of 1913, the town flourished, and many small businesses opened. By the 1930s, Claire City had a grocery store, meat market, drug and general store, a live stable, barbershop, bank, pool hall, and a hardware store. On weekend nights in the summers of the 1930s and 1940s, residents could catch a free movie and businesses stayed open until midnight. When the weather started to get colder, residents could watch a movie at the town hall for only ten cents.

Residents of Claire City plan to celebrate their centennial this weekend with a full schedule of fun activities that engage the community. Friday night there will be a large supper at the community center, accompanied by dancing and live music. Saturday there will be a number of outdoor activities, including a tractor pull, parade, and rides for children and adults alike. Sunday finishes up the celebration with a church service and brunch served at Deano's.

Claire City embodies the values that make South Dakota a great State. The hard work and determination of its residents, past and present, have made it possible for Claire City to reach its centennial anniversary. I congratulate Claire City on reaching this milestone, and I wish the residents the best in their future endeavors.●

WHITEWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Whitewood, SD. Located in Lawrence County, Whitewood is a tightly knit community, known for its rich history and hardworking people.

In 1877, the Pioneer Townsite Company bought an orchard from William Selbie, one of the early settlers of the Black Hills. This land would become the town of Whitewood, and was incorporated in 1888. The new town enjoyed trade from settlers to the north, as it was one of the few towns in existence at the time. Settlers came into town for machinery, feed, food, mail, as well as to ship their wool and livestock. In the early years, Whitewood was a hub of agricultural trade, particularly for wheat.

A railroad terminal opened in 1905 to accommodate the increase in commercial activity. Along with the railroad terminal, a water tank, coal chute, roundhouse, and a section house offered many jobs to town residents.

Whitewood is looking forward to celebrating its quasiquintennial anniversary. The last weekend of June will be packed with many activities that will bring the community together as they celebrate their humble beginnings. Festivities include children's

games at Memorial Park, a 5 kilometer run, a roast pig barbeque, and a historically themed parade through the town.

Whitewood was founded by a group of pioneers with an enterprising spirit. One hundred and twenty-five years after its founding, Whitewood continues to be a vibrant community and a great asset to the State of South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Whitewood on this memorable occasion.●

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH DAKOTA WHEAT GROWERS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the South Dakota Wheat Growers as it celebrates its 90th anniversary. Over the years, the Wheat Growers has faithfully served member-owners by promoting integrity through business transactions, providing customers with reliable markets, and practicing sustainability through the best applications of science and technology. The Wheat Growers aims to meet the food challenges our world faces by coupling the expertise of farmers in the Dakotas with state-of-the-art technology and facilities to improve production agriculture capabilities.

The Wheat Growers was established in 1923 as a response to widespread farm bankruptcies caused by depressed wheat prices. Through their collaboration and commitment to serving South Dakota farmers, the Wheat Growers endured the Great Depression and has since expanded its grain storage capacity and farming supply services. It continues to develop its industry as it seeks new opportunities for expansion and value-added potential for producers.

Today, the Wheat Growers serves 5,400 member-owners in eastern North and South Dakota, markets 160 million bushels annually, and operates in 37 locations. I would like to thank the Leadership Team, the Board, and delegates of the Wheat Growers who have committed their time and energy to helping member-owners succeed in agricultural production. On behalf of the State of South Dakota, I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate the South Dakota Wheat Growers for 90 successful years of service in providing a healthy market for producers and consumers. Congratulations to the Wheat Growers as it celebrates its 90th anniversary in Aberdeen, SD, on Friday, June 28th.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATION OF BANGLADESH AS A BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRY UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM—PM 15

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to suspend the designation of Bangladesh as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(b)(2)(G) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(2)(G)) provides that the President shall not designate any country a beneficiary developing country under the GSP if such country has not taken or is not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights in the country (including any designated zone in that country). Section 502(d)(2) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(d)(2)) provides that, after complying with the requirements of section 502(f)(2) of the 1974 Act, the President shall withdraw or suspend the designation of any country as a beneficiary developing country if, after such designation, the President determines that as the result of changed circumstances such country would be barred from designation as a beneficiary developing country under section 502(b)(2) of the 1974 Act.

Pursuant to section 502(d) of the 1974 Act, having considered the factors set forth in section 502(b)(2)(G), I have determined that it is appropriate to suspend Bangladesh's designation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program because it is not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in the country.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 27, 2013.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1238. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1241. A bill to establish the interest rate for certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2102. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sulfoxaflo; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 9391-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2103. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ethalfuralin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9391-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2104. A communication from the Manager of the BioPreferred Program, Office of Procurement and Property Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of Product Categories for Federal Procurement, Round 10" (RIN0599-AA16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2105. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13348 relative to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2106. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2107. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lending Limits" (RIN1557-AD59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2108. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the competitiveness of the export financing services for the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2109. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled "Report to Congress: 2013 Compact Analysis" and "Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on Guam: Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2012"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2110. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Regulation Revision: Removal of the Pesticide Discharge Permitting Exemption in Response to Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Decision" (FRL No. 9829-2) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2111. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois" (FRL No. 9824-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2112. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; South Coast Air Basin; Approval of PM10 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation to Attainment for the PM10 Standard" (FRL No. 9826-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2113. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Removal of Consumer and Commercial Products Rules" (FRL No. 9828-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2114. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities; Hospice Services" (RIN0938-AP32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2115. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Railroad Unemployment Insurance System"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2116. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Railroad Retirement System"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2117. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2118. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Expansion of Applicability of the Senior Executive Compensation Benchmark" ((RIN9000-AM38) (FAC 2005-68)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2119. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-68; Introduction" (FAC 2005-68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2013; to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2120. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2121. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 13-067, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2122. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 13-099, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2123. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-030); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2124. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-081); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2125. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-066); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2126. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-063); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2127. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-058); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2128. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-053); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2129. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-082); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2130. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-085); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2131. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-057); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2132. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to