

Central Kentucky. His storied career brought him to radio stations across the Commonwealth, from Greensburg to Harrodsburg, and Bowling Green, before settling in Russellville in 1958 with WRUS Radio Station. During his six decades with WRUS, he became part owner of the station and hosted and directed multiple programs.

He was best known for his program "Feedback," where he interviewed politicians, listeners of the show, and other notable figures. I had the privilege of being regularly interviewed on his show and always enjoyed the chance to speak with him and his audience. My wife Kelley is a Russellville native and grew up listening to Don's shows. He has been a household name for both the Pauls and the Ashbys, and he will be greatly missed.

While we share in the sadness of his passing, it is with great joy we look back at his life, his many accomplishments, and the positive impact he had on his community and Kentuckians across the Commonwealth. We honor Don and his family, and may he rest in peace.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TOGETHER WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS—PM 45

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 Joint Economic Committee:

To the Congress of the United States:

When I was elected President, a pandemic was raging and our economy was reeling, and trickle-down economics had undermined our nation's growth long-term. I was determined to rebuild from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down, because when the middle class does well, we all do well. We can give everyone a fair shot and leave no one behind. Our plan has brought transformational progress.

In the near term, my Administration moved quickly to help hardworking families and businesses make it through the pandemic, with a historic rescue plan that vaccinated the nation,

delivered immediate economic relief to people in need, and sent funding to states and cities to keep essential services going. We worked with the private sector and labor unions to ease bottlenecks and shortages in our supply chains, getting goods flowing again and making our economy more resilient for the future. Today, America is in the midst of the strongest recovery of any advanced economy in the world.

Along the way, we've achieved one of the most successful legislative records in generations, bringing new opportunities to communities of all sizes nationwide. We're tackling years of underinvestment in public infrastructure, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing, making sure the future is made in America by American workers. We're making the biggest investment in American infrastructure in generations, including over \$400 billion for 46,000 projects in 4,500 communities to date. These projects are rebuilding the nation's roads, bridges, railroads, ports, airports, public transit, water systems, high-speed internet, and more, in every part of the country. We're also making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in history—advancing breakthroughs in clean technology, boosting energy independence, lowering electricity costs for hardworking families, and revitalizing fence-line communities smothered by a legacy of pollution. At the same time, we're working with the private sector to strengthen America's semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industries as well, empowering workers and small businesses to share in the benefits.

Already, my Investing in America agenda has attracted \$650 billion in private investment from companies that are building factories here in America. We've ignited a manufacturing boom, a semiconductor boom, a battery boom, an electric-vehicle boom, and more. My agenda is creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, so folks never have to leave their hometowns to find work they can raise a family on. Today, America once again has the strongest economy in the world. A record 15 million jobs have been created on my watch, giving 15 million more Americans the dignity and peace of mind that comes with a steady paycheck. The unemployment rate has been below 4 percent for the longest stretch in over 50 years, and we've seen the lowest unemployment rate for Black Americans on record. Economic growth is strong. Wages are rising faster than prices. Inflation is down by two-thirds. We have more to do, but folks are starting to feel the results. Real income and household wealth are higher now than they were before the pandemic, and consumer sentiment has surged more in recent months than any time in decades. Americans have filed a record 16 million new business applications since I took office, and each one of them is an act of hope.

Importantly, we're paying for many of these historic investments by making our tax system fairer. We've cut

the deficit by \$1 trillion since I took office, one of the biggest reductions in history, and I've signed legislation to cut it by \$1 trillion more over the next 10 years, in part by raising the corporate minimum tax to 15 percent and making the wealthy and big corporations start paying their fair share.

It's clear that we're making tremendous progress for the American people, but we have more to do to finish the job. My Administration is going to keep fighting to lower costs for hardworking families, on everything from prescription drugs, to housing, childcare, and student loans. Folks in Washington have tried to reduce prescription drug costs for decades; our historic Inflation Reduction Act is getting it done. It for example caps the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35 a month, down from as much as \$400; and starting next year, no senior on Medicare will pay more than \$2,000 a year in total out-of-pocket drug costs, even for expensive medications that can cost many times more. It also protects and expands the Affordable Care Act; as a result, more Americans have health insurance today than ever.

We're also making real gains in expanding access to housing: More families own homes today than did before the pandemic, rents are easing, and a record of around 1.7 million housing units are under construction nationwide. We'll keep working to lower housing costs and boost supply, by expanding rental assistance; speeding builders' access to federal financing to build more affordable homes; and reducing mortgage payments for first-time homebuyers. Meanwhile, we're standing up for workers and consumers, and cracking down on unfair hidden "junk fees" that companies like airlines, banks, and insurers slip onto people's bills.

At the same time, we're working to get every child in America the strong start they need to thrive. The American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit, cutting child poverty nearly in half in 2021. We'll keep fighting to restore it, and to guarantee the vast majority of American families access to high-quality childcare for no more than \$10 a day. Our rescue plan also made the biggest investment in public education in American history; today, we're pushing to further boost funding to schools in need, to expand tutoring and afterschool programs, and to ease teacher shortages. I'm keeping my promise to ease the crushing burden of student debt as well. Despite legal challenges, we've canceled \$138 billion in student loans for nearly 3.9 million Americans, including more than 750,000 teachers, nurses, firefighters, social workers, and other public servants. Such widespread debt cancellation is freeing people to finally consider buying a home, having a child, or starting the small business they always dreamed of. In all, our agenda is making the promise of America real for

many millions more Americans than ever before.

The story of America is one of progress and resilience, of always moving forward and never giving up. It is a story unique among nations—we are the only country that has emerged from every crisis stronger than we went in. That is what's happening across America today. There is still work to do, but I've never been more optimistic about our future. We are the United States of America, and there is nothing beyond our capacity when we do it together.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 21, 2024.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, 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. 1121. An act to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing.

H.R. 6009. An act to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7520. An act to prohibit data brokers from transferring personally identifiable sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today, March 21, 2024, she had signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 992. An act to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1121. An act to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6009. An act to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7520. An act to prohibit data brokers from transferring personally identifiable sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 7024. An act to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from

sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 21, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 992. An act to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27, 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-3818. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credit Card Penalty Fees (Regulation Z)" (RIN3170-AB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3819. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exception to Restrictions on Private Transfer Fee Covenants for Loans Meeting Certain Duty to Serve Shared Equity Loan Program Requirements" (RIN2590-AB30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3820. 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 13536 with respect to Somalia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3821. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Ethiopia that was declared in Executive Order 14046 of September 17, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3822. 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 13848 with respect to the threat of foreign interference in or undermining public confidence in United States elections; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3823. 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 14024 with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3824. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating contact information and grammatical terminology in OFAC

regulations" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3825. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Darfur Sanctions Regulations" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3826. A communication from the President and Chair of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Bank's Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2025, and the Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3827. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Market Utilities" (RIN7100-AG40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3828. A communication from the Director of the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment" (RIN1219-AB91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3829. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3830. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Technical Amendments" (Docket No. FDA-2024-N-1052) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3831. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures Governing the Filing and Processing of Prohibited Transaction Exemption Applications" (RIN1210-AC05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3832. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5) Report to Congress with Grantee Highlights Covering 2019-2021"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3833. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Progress Report on the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and National Cord Blood Inventory Program"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3834. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of