

2492. A letter from the Chairman, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, transmitting the Commission's 35th annual report of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, pursuant to 24 U.S.C. 4275(3); to the Committee on Government Operations.

2493. A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1993, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(j); to the Committee on Government Operations.

2494. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting notification of the determination that it is in the public interest to make a proposed contract award to: First, the Rappahannock Area Development Commission [RADCO] to establish a pilot telecommuting center in the Fredericksburg, VA, area, and second, the city of Hagerstown, MD, to establish a pilot telecommuting center in the Hagerstown area, pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 253(c)(7); to the Committee on Government Operations.

2495. A letter from the Secretary, Mississippi River Commission, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1993, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552B(j); to the Committee on Government Operations.

2496. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1993, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Operations.

2497. A letter from the Executive Director, State Justice Institute, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1993, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Operations.

2498. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Collection and Disbursement, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report on proposed refunds of excess royalty payments in OCS areas, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1339(b); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2499. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the 1993 section 8 report on national historic and natural landmarks that have been damaged or to which damage to their integrity is anticipated, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1a-5(a); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2500. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to allow removal of suits against the United States and its agencies, as well as those against Federal officers, and to allow removal of suits against Federal agencies and officers that are brought in tribal courts, courts of Indian offenses, and local courts of U.S. territories and possessions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2501. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Directors, Panama Canal Commission, transmitting the Commission's report, including unaudited financial statements, covering the operations of the Panama Canal during fiscal year 1993, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3722; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

2502. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, transmitting the Department's annual report on management systems, pursuant to Public Law 102-240, section 1034(a) (105 Stat. 1977); to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation.

2503. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's 76th quarterly report

on trade between the United States and the nonmarket economy countries, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2440; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2504. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program for fiscal year 1993, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3905(d)(2); jointly, to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Post Office and Civil Service.

2505. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the President has exercised the national interest waiver provision of section 539 of the fiscal year 1994 Foreign Operations Appropriations Export Financing and Related Programs Act to provide assistance to Jordan; jointly, to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

2506. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. General Accounting Office, transmitting a report entitled, "Measuring U.S.-Canada Trade: Shifting Trade Winds May Threaten Recent Progress" (GAO/GGO-94-4); jointly, to the Committees on Government Operations and Ways and Means.

2507. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the annual report regarding the accessibility standards issues, revised, amended, or repealed under the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4151; jointly, to the Committees on Public Works and Transportation and Education and Labor.

¶3.4 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Hallen, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 469. An Act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

S. 1070. An Act to provide that certain politically appointed Federal officers may not receive cash awards for a certain period during a Presidential election year, to prohibit cash awards to Executive Schedule officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1618. An Act to establish Tribal Self-Governance, and for other purposes.

S. 1624. An Act to standardize withdrawal options for Thrift Savings Plan participants, and for other purposes.

S. 1654. An Act to make certain technical corrections.

S. 1783. An Act to amend the Mount Rushmore Commemorative Coin Act to allow proceeds from the sale of coins to be used to renovate the Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

S. 1784. An Act to restore the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska to the Department of the Interior list of Indian entities recognized and eligible to receive services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 102-521, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican leader, appointed James C. Dobson, of Colorado and Cynthia Gulley Wiedemann, of Texas, to the Commission on Child and Family Welfare.

¶3.5 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

¶3.6 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT— STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. VOLKMER, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to present my first annual report on the state of small business. This report covers data for fiscal year 1992, a period of slow economic recovery that occurred just before my Administration took office.

Small businesses create many new jobs and are an important part of our Nation's economic growth. That is why, in my first address to the Joint Session of the Congress, I proposed some of the boldest targeted incentives for small business in history. These measures will benefit not only small businesses, but the American work force, our Nation's economy, and our international competitiveness.

At the same time, we must undertake some major corrective efforts. As small business owners will testify, the best thing the government could do for small business and the economy is to reduce the deficit. The primary goal of the economic program is to set the economy on the proper course for the short- and long-term future. Deficit reduction and shifting consumption to investment are the ways to accomplish that goal.

Reducing health care costs while ensuring that all Americans have access to health care is another national imperative. I have said it before: bringing health spending in line with inflation would do more for the private sector than almost any incentive or tax cut we could promote. At the same time, we must find a way to provide health care for everyone. Currently two-thirds of the Americans without health insurance are employed—many in small businesses. My health care task force has evaluated many proposals to ensure that health care is available to small business employees and affordable for small business owners. It will take time to change our health care system, but we are taking the important first steps.

We will also need to keep looking for better ways to provide for workers upon retirement. As this report documents, pension plans, like health plans, are much less available and affordable in small businesses. And as the baby boom generation moves toward retirement, issues related to Social Security and pension plan availability take on new urgency.

Beyond these long-range efforts, I have asked the Congress to join me in investing in small business and economic growth through specific tax incentives, capital formation initiatives, enterprise and empowerment zones, technology investments, and education and job training efforts.

To encourage long-term investment in small business, I supported—and the Congress passed—a 50 percent tax exclusion on capital gains from invest-