

¶37.27 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

¶37.28 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—
HONEY IMPORTS FROM CHINA

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 406 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2436) and sections 202 and 203 of the Trade Act of 1974 (as those sections were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988), I have determined the action I will take with respect to the affirmative determination of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC), on the basis of its investigation (No. TA-406-13), that market disruption exists with respect to imports from China of honey provided for in heading 0409 and subheadings 1702.90 and 2106.90 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

After considering all relevant aspects of the investigation, including those set forth in section 202(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, I have determined that import relief for honey is not in the national economic interest of the United States. However, I am directing the United States Trade Representative (USTR), in consultation with the appropriate agencies to develop a plan to monitor imports of honey from China. The monitoring program is to be developed within thirty days of this determination.

Since I have determined that the provision of import relief is not in the national economic interest of the United States, I am required by that section 203(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 to report to Congress on the reasons underlying this determination.

In determining not to provide import relief, I considered its overall costs to the U.S. economy. The USITC majority recommendation for a quarterly tariff rate quota (a 25 percent ad valorem charge on the first 12.5 million pounds each quarter, increasing to 50 percent on amounts above that level), to be applied for three years, would cost consumers about \$7 million while increasing producers' income by just \$1.9 million. The other forms of relief recommended by other Commissioners would also result in substantial costs to consumers while offering little benefit to producers.

In addition, the gap between production and consumption in the United States is approximately 100 million pounds, with imports of honey from China helping to fill that gap at the low end for industrial use. Any restrictions on imports of honey from China would likely lead to increased imports from other countries rather than significantly increased market share for U.S. producers.

Although rising somewhat since 1991, U.S. honey inventories are not large by historical experience, either in absolute amounts or relative to consumption. Honey stocks reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture were much higher in the mid-1980's (about 75 percent of consumption in 1985 and 1986), before falling to their lowest level in a decade in 1991 (26.6 percent of consumption). The 1993 stocks were 37.8 percent of consumption, well below the 1980-1993 average level of 46.4 percent.

The U.S. government has supported honey producers since 1950, in part, to ensure enough honeybees would be available for crop pollination. This is an important national interest. I believe that current trends in the provision of pollination and honey production will not be significantly affected by not providing relief. Crop producers indicate that they believe pollination will still be cost effective even if service prices rise.

I have also concluded that, in this case, imposing trade restrictions on imports of honey would run counter to our policy of promoting an open and fair international trading system.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 21, 1994.

By unanimous consent, the message was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 103-242).

¶37.29 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS
SIGNED

Joint resolutions of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S.J. Res. 161. Joint resolution to designate April 1994, as "Civil War History Month"; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

S.J. Res. 174. Joint resolution to designate the week beginning April 24, 1994, as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week"; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

¶37.30 ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. ROSE, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 821. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for burial in national cemeteries to persons who have 20 years of service creditable for retired pay as members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and to their dependents.

H.R. 3693. An Act to designate the United States courthouse under construction in Denver, Colorado, as the "Byron White United States Courthouse."

¶37.31 SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 375. An Act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating a segment of the Rio Grande in New Mexico as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

S. 1574. An Act to authorize appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes.

¶37.32 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to Mr. ANDREWS of New Jersey, for today.

And then,

¶37.33 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. HOYER, pursuant to the special order heretofore agreed to, at 6 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m., the House adjourned until 12 o'clock noon on Monday, April 25, 1994.

¶37.34 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BONIOR: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 410. Resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) to provide for the adjudication of certain claims against the Government of Iraq (Rept. No. 103-481). Referred to the House Calendar.

¶37.35 PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. KLUG):

H.R. 4274. A bill to modify certain provisions of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PICKLE:

H.R. 4275. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to assure that the Social Security system remains viable for the baby boom generation and that the level of Social Security taxation remains affordable for their children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HARMAN (for herself and Mr. BERMAN):

H.R. 4276. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act and the Export Administration Act of 1979 to provide that the export of certain commercial communications satellites and associated equipment be regulated solely under the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JACOBS (for himself and Mr. FORD of Tennessee):

H.R. 4277. A bill to establish the Social Security Administration as an independent agency and to make other improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JACOBS (for himself, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. HOUGHTON, and Mrs. MEEK of Florida):

H.R. 4278. A bill to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program under title II of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Mrs. UNSOELD, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. SCHENK, Ms. WATERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FOGLETTA, Ms. FURSE, Mr. TORRES, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DELUMS, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. SYNAR, and Ms. SHEPHERD):

H.R. 4279. A bill to require studies by the Federal Trade Commission of whether tobacco advertisements target women and minorities to promote smoking and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.