

State so very proud: Julius Thomas, Deonte Huff, Andre Murray, Mickey Polis, Jeremiah Dominguez, Dominic Waters, Brian Curtis, Tyrell Mara, Kyle Coston, Dupree Lucas, Phil Nelson, Justynn Hammond, J.R. Moore, Alex Tiefenthaler, Scott Morrison, Ken Bone, Tyler Geving, Eric Harper, Curtis Allen, and Tyler Coston. I heartily congratulate each and every one of you. I look forward to cheering you on in the NCAA Tournament this month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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, withdrawals and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2745. An act to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2733. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2745. An act to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 13, 2008, she had

presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 2733. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 2745. An act to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, 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-5394. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spiromesifen; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8351-7) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5395. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Texas" (Docket No. APHIS-2008-0003) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5396. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Modification of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 2" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0115) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5397. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the first quarter report for fiscal year 2008 of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5398. A communication from the Director, Pentagon Renovations and Construction Program Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for the year ending March 1, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5399. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Export-Controlled Information Technology" (DFARS Case 2004-D010) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5400. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commercial Activities Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5401. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (73 FR 9699) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5402. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (73 FR 10155) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5403. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standardized and Enhanced Disclosure Requirements for Television Broadcast Licensee Public Interest Obligations" ((FCC 07-205) (MB Docket No. 00-168)) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5404. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DTV Consumer Education Initiative" ((FCC 08-56) (MB Docket No. 07-148)) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5405. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service" ((FCC 07-138) (MB Docket No. 87-268)) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5406. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations: Susanville, California" (MB Docket No. 07-221) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5407. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations: Blanca, Colorado" (MB Docket No. 07-165) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5408. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inseason Closure of the Commercial Gill Net Fishery for Gulf Group King Mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico Southern Florida West Coast Subzone for the 2007-2008 Fishing Year" (RIN0648-XF24) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5409. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program" (RIN0648-XF29) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5410. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Processors Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XF55) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5411. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Amendment to Adjust the Seasonal Timing for Trip Limits for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel" (RIN0648-AV17) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5412. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Pacific Halibut Individual Fishing Quota Program Processing Restrictions" (RIN0648-AU85) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5413. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final 2008 Specifications for the Atlantic Bluefish Fishery" (RIN0648-XB94) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5414. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Amendment to the FMP for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico" (RIN0648-AU59) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5415. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Grant and Legislative Request for fiscal year 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5416. A communication from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard for the Flammability of Mattress Sets; Technical Correction" (16 CFR Part 1633) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5417. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Texas Regulatory Program" (Docket No. TX-058-FOR) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5418. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana" (FRL No. 8541-3) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5419. A communication from the Director, 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; State of California; PM-10; Affirmation of Determination of Attainment for the San Joaquin Valley Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 8542-6) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5420. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Colorado: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 8541-5) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5421. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Control of Hazardous Air Pollutants From Mobile Sources: Early Credit Technology Requirement Revision" (RIN2060-AO89)(FRL

No. 8542-1) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5422. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Attorney Advisor Program" (RIN0960-AG49) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5423. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dollar-Value LIFO Pooling for Resellers of New and Used Vehicles" (Rev. Proc. 2008-23) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5424. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2008-37) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5425. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the establishment of a Danger Pay Allowance for its civilian employees assigned to Chad; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5426. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to human rights practices; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5427. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the defense articles and services that were licensed for export during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5428. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of the waiver of restrictions contained in Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act of 1992; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5429. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to Russia to support a commercial communications satellite; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5430. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles to Mexico for the assembly and repair of Honeywell Product Lines for various weapons systems and platforms; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5431. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles to Mexico to support the manufacture of electronic connectors and other materials for use in military avionics and guidance systems; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5432. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to the United Kingdom in support of the Directional Infrared Countermeasure System Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5433. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2008-21- 2008-26); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5434. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report relative to payments made to Cuba for telecommunications services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5435. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles to Australia to provide continued support for the manufacture of F/A-18 structural components; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5436. A communication from the Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Criteria and Procedures for Proposed Assessment of Civil Penalties" (RIN1219-AB57) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5437. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports relative to national healthcare quality; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5438. A communication from the Public Printer, Government Printing Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5439. A communication from the Director, Office of General Counsel and Legal Policy, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restrictions; Revision of Departmental Component Designations" (RIN3209-AA14) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5440. A communication from the Acting Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation" (FAC 2005-24) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5441. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States for the September 2007 session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-291. A resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Monmouth of the State of New Jersey urging Congress to reverse the decision to close the United States Army Installation at Fort Monmouth; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-292. A collection of petitions forwarded by the Benefit Security Coalition relative to establishing a more equitable method of computing cost of living adjustments