

and his integrity, service, and devotion to justice will be forever remembered by the people of Kansas.●

#### 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.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT RELATIVE TO AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR PAY INCREASES FOR CIVILIAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE GENERAL SCHEDULE AND CERTAIN OTHER PAY SYSTEMS IN JANUARY 2017—PM 57

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 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am transmitting an alternative plan for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2017. Title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement alternative pay plans for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems if, because of “national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare,” I view the adjustments that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate.

Civilian Federal employees made significant sacrifices as a result of the 3-year pay freeze that ended in January 2014. Since the pay freeze ended, annual adjustments for civilian Federal employees have also been lower than private sector pay increases and statutory formulas for adjustments to the General Schedule for 2014 through 2016. However, we must maintain efforts to keep our Nation on a sustainable fiscal course. This is an effort that continues to require tough choices under current economic conditions.

Under current law, locality pay increases averaging 28.49 percent and costing \$26 billion would go into effect in January 2017. Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases. In my August 31, 2016, alternative pay

plan submission, I noted that the alternative plan for locality payments will be limited so that the total combined cost of the 1.0 percent across-the-board base pay increase and the varying locality pay increases will be 1.6 percent of basic payroll, consistent with the assumption in my 2017 Budget. Accordingly, I have determined that under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments for the locality pay areas established by the President’s Pay Agent, in the amounts set forth in the attached table, shall become effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

The locality-based comparability payments for the locality pay rates in the attached table are based on an allocation of 0.6 percent of payroll as indicated in my August 31, 2016, alternative pay plan for adjustments to the base General Schedule. These decisions will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well-qualified Federal workforce.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 29, 2016.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 6297. An act to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

#### 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-7671. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Chief Compliance Officer Annual Report Requirements for Futures Commission Merchants, Swap Dealers, and Major Swap Participants; Amendments to Filing Dates” (RIN3038-AE49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7672. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts” covering the period August 7, 2015 to February 6, 2016; to the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Finance; and Foreign Relations.

EC-7673. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7674. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order

13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7675. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Annual Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7676. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2017–2022”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7677. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Measurement of Oil” (RIN1004-AE16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7678. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Measurement of Gas” (RIN1004-AE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7679. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Site Security” (RIN1004-AE15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7680. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation” (RIN1004-AE14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7681. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s 2016 Report to Congress on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7682. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Operating Organization” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7683. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reactor Operator Qualification Program; Reactor Operator Training” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7684. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of