peace. It is the business of international trade. It is the business of selling our products abroad, but also using food in foreign policy situations. The Secretary of Agriculture can be a driving force for what happens in farm prices and for the entire agricultural industry in our country in the next few years.

The Secretary of Agriculture also is a very important force domestically because it is his Department that sets the standards for food—what people are supposed to eat. The Food Stamp Program also is administered by the Department of Agriculture to provide food assistance for the poor. These are just some of a whole array of domestic issues handled by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture is a vast, huge agency. I first became acquainted with it when I was a young 4H member growing up on a farm near Humboldt, SD. There is a great deal of controversy about what the Department should do about reorganizing, and making it more efficient. I hope Dan Glickman will heed the call of the American people for less Government and more action, so to speak, in terms of the bureaucracy. It seems every time we cut spending around here we are told it is going to cut children's programs or food stamps or it is going to close a local office in one of our States. We never hear anything about shutting down any of the bureaucracy here in Washington, DC.

We need to have a more efficient Department of Agriculture. I am hoping Dan Glickman will do just that. I am prepared to help him and I wish him well.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to yield back all the time on both sides regarding the nomination of Mr. Glickman. And I am playing the role of both leader and Democratic leader at the same time, I am told.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Senate resumed legislative session.

MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME

Mr. PRESSLER. I would inquire of the Chair if H.R. 849 has arrived from the House of Representatives?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, it has.

Mr. PRESSLER. Therefore, I will ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 849) to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act to reinstate an exemption for certain bona fide hiring and retirement plans applicable to State and local fire-fighters and law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

Mr. PRESSLER. I now ask for its second reading.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will remain at the desk and have its next reading on the next legislative day.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by 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 Select Committee on Intelligence.

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

REPORT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 39

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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

This Nation's future depends on strong public and private support for science and technology. My Administration's decision to make sound investments in science and technology even as the Federal Government cuts other spending is premised on three basic assumptions:

—Technology is the engine of economic growth.

—Scientific knowledge is the key to the future.

—Responsible government advances science and technology.

The Congress and the American people can find evidence of the Administration's dedication to responsible government support for science and technology in our defense and economic policies as well as our management of the science and technology enterprise. We have decreased the Federal deficit, helped to create millions of new jobs, and improved the tax treatment of small businesses and of investments in research and development. Hemispheric and global trade agreements as well as relaxation of outdated export controls have opened huge export markets to America's high-tech industries. My *National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement* (February 1995) depends on farsighted and efficient science and technology investments. Our foreign policy and security interests are also supported by mutually beneficial international cooperation in science and technology.

We have consistently endorsed technology policies to increase prosperity and enhance environmental quality. In *Technology for America's Economic Growth* (February 1993) and *Technology for a Sustainable Future* (July 1994) this Administration conveyed to the American people our plans for public/private partnerships to improve the business environment, enhance access to quality education and training, support development of information infrastructure, ensure continued excellence in health care, and strengthen America's global competitiveness.

Streamlined government based on strong partnerships—within the government, with the private sector, and among nations—is a hallmark of the Clinton/Gore Administration. The ''virtual department'' I created by establishing the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) has cut bureaucratic red tape and produced a historic first: an integrated research and development budget that focuses on national goals. The NSTC has also produced large savings by enabling agencies to coordinate their efforts, divide tasks, and share resources.

My Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) provides critical links to industry and academia. Their oversight of NSTC activities, such as development of strategies for the management and disposition of fissile materials, promises to improve the Federal effort. So, too, do the forums and workshops that have drawn in thousands of experts and stakeholders to help develop priorities in areas as diverse as fundamental science; environmental technology; and health; safety; and food research.

I am also very proud of the steps we have taken to improve international cooperation in science and technology. Through the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission we have used science and technology cooperation to ease the Russians' transition to democracy and a market economy. We have received valuable new technology and cultivated a crucial partner in global affairs through Russian participation in the international space station. We have used the Megasciences Forum of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other international forums to explore ways to share the increasing costs of cutting-edge research while maintaining our position of world leadership. Bilateral science and technology cooperation with other nations, including advanced industrial economies such as