

rate and tariff approvals, wetlands permits, grazing permits, plant licenses or permits, drug and medical device approvals, new source review permits, hunting and fishing take limits, incidental take permits and habitat conservation plans, broadcast licenses, and product approvals, including approvals that set forth the conditions under which a product may be distributed.

Subsection 804(3)(B) excludes "any rule relating to agency management or personnel" from the definition of a rule. Pursuant to subsection 804(3)(C), however, a "rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice," is only excluded if it "does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties." The committees' intent in these subsections is to exclude matters of purely internal agency management and organization, but to include matters that substantially affect the rights or obligations of outside parties. The essential focus of this inquiry is not on the type of rule but on its effect on the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

GRAND OPENING OF MAIN
BRANCH, SAN FRANCISCO LI-
BRARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 90th anniversary of the devastating 1906 San Francisco earthquake, to celebrate with the city of San Francisco a monumental achievement of community cooperation and commitment. I invite my colleagues to join me in conveying our congratulations and admiration to the people of San Francisco who have committed their precious resources to the construction of the new main branch of the San Francisco Library, a beautiful and highly functional testament to the love that San Franciscans have for their city and for books and education. It is a love that has found its voice through the coordinated efforts of corporations, foundations, and individuals.

A library should reflect the pride, the culture, and the values of the diverse communities that it serves. The San Francisco main library will undoubtedly be successful in reaching this goal. The library will be home to special centers dedicated to the history and interests of African-Americans, Chinese-Americans, Filipino-Americans, Latino-Americans, and gays and lesbians. The library will be designed to serve the specialized needs of the businessman as well as the immigrant newcomer. It will become home to the diverse communities that make San Francisco unique among metropolitan areas of the world. It will also become a home, most importantly, that serves to unite.

The new San Francisco main library represents an opportunity to preserve and disperse the knowledge of times long since passed. The book serves as man's most lasting testament and the library serves as our version of a time machine into the past, the present and the future. This library, built upon the remains of the old City Hall destroyed 90 years ago today, is a befitting tribute to the immortality of thought. Buildings will come as they will most definitely pass, but the books of this new library and the information that they hold are eternal and serve as an indelible

foundation that cannot be erased by the passage of time.

The expanded areas of the new main library will provide space for numerous hidden treasures that no longer will be hidden. The people of San Francisco will have the opportunity to reacquire themselves with numerous literary treasures previously locked behind the dusty racks of unsightly storage rooms.

Although the new San Francisco main library serves as a portal into our past, it also serves to propel us into the future. It is an edifice designed to stoke the imagination by providing access to the numerous streams of information that characterize our society today. The technologically designed library will provide hundreds of public computer terminals to locate materials on-line, 14 multimedia stations, as well as access to data bases and the Information Superhighway. It will provide education and access for those previously unable to enter the "computer revolution." The library will provide vital access and communication links so that it can truly serve as a resource for the city and for other libraries and educational institutions throughout the region. The new library will serve as an outstanding model for libraries around the world to emulate.

Like an educational institution, the San Francisco Library will be a repository of human knowledge, organized and made accessible for writers, students, lifelong learners and leisure readers. It will serve to compliment and expand San Francisco's existing civic buildings—City Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, Brooks Hall, and the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center. The library serves as a symbiotic commitment between the city of San Francisco and its people. In 1988, when electorates across the country refused to support new bond issues, the people of San Francisco committed themselves to a \$109.5 million bond measure to build the new main library building and to strengthen existing branch libraries. Eight years later those voices are still clearly heard and they resonate with the dedication of this unique library, built by a community to advance themselves and their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, on this day, when we celebrate the opening of the new main branch of the San Francisco Library, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the community of San Francisco for their admirable accomplishments and outstanding determination.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID J. WHEELER

HON. WES COOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. COOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 1996, the President signed H.R. 2061, a bill to designate the Federal building in Baker City, OR in honor of the late David J. Wheeler. As the congressional representative for Baker City, and as the sponsor of H.R. 2061, I recently returned to Baker City for the building dedication ceremony. Mr. Wheeler, a Forest Service employee, was a model father and an active citizen. In honor of Mr. Wheeler, I would like to submit, for the record, my speech at the dedication ceremony.

Thank you for inviting me here today. It has been an honor to sponsor the congress-

sional bill to designate this building in memory of David Wheeler. I did not have the privilege of knowing Mr. Wheeler myself, but from my discussions with Mayor Griffith—and from researching his accomplishments—I've come to know what a fine man he was. I know that Mr. Wheeler was a true community leader, and I know that the community is that much poorer for his passing. With or without this dedication, his spirit will remain within the Baker City community.

Mayor Griffith, I have brought a copy of H.R. 2061—the law to honor David Wheeler. The bill has been signed by the President of the United States, by the Speaker of the House, and by the President of the Senate. Hopefully, this bill will find a suitable place within the new David J. Wheeler Federal Building.

I'd like to offer my deepest sympathy to the Wheeler family, and to everyone here who knew him. And, I'd like to offer a few words from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow—who once commented on the passing-away of great men. His words—I think—describe Mr. Wheeler well:

If a star were quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling down from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.

So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men."

So too with David Wheeler. His light will shine on the paths of us all—particularly of his family—for the rest of our days.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 17, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

Rewarding work is a fundamental American value. There are many ways to achieve that goal, including deficit reduction to boost the economy, opening markets abroad to our products, improving education and skills training, and investing in technology and infrastructure. Increasing wages must be a central objective of government policies.

The economy is improving. It has in recent years reduced the unemployment rate of 5.6%, cut the budget deficit nearly in half, and spurred the creation of 8.4 million additional jobs. Real hourly earning has now begun to rise modestly, and the tax cut in 1993 for 15 million working families helped spur economic growth.

But much work needs to be done. We must build on the successes of the last few years, and address the key challenges facing our economy, including the problem of stagnant wages. This problem will not be solved overnight, but one action we can take immediately, and which I support, is to raise the minimum wage.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

The minimum wage was established in 1938 in an attempt to assist the working poor, usually non-union workers with few skills and little bargaining power. The wage has been increased 17 times, from 25 cents per hour in 1938 to \$4.25 per hour in 1991. Currently some 5 million people work for wages at or below \$4.25 per hour, and most of them are adults rather than teenagers.