The responsibility of guiding our national forests into the next century lays on the shoulders of both the Chief and the many employees who serve him. The relationship between the Chief, Forest Service employees, and the public will become increasingly important as the demands on the National Forest System continue to grow and diversify. I have great admiration for the traditions and mission of the Forest Service; I have confidence that it has the statutory and administrative ability to maintain the balance between multiple-use and sustained yield management of our forests; I have respect for the knowledge and skills of the people that work for the Forest Service; but, I also have concerns that as the Agency faces the pressure to maintain timber production and expand recreational opportunities we could compromise the debt we owe to our children—conserving these forests for their use and enjoyment.

As the 14th Chief of the Forest Service, Chief Dombeck will have to lead the Agency through the swirling debate on how to manage our forests for multiple-use while protecting them for future generations. I believe Chief Dombeck has the vision and leadership ability to achieve this goal. I welcome the opportunity to work with him to implement his philosophy of collaborative stewardship and accountability to the public as a whole and to the direct neighbors of the national forests. Chief Dombeck has already laid out some changes to move in this direction. I urge my colleagues in Congress to work with Chief Dombeck to pursue changes that will enable the Forest Service to address the growing demands on our forests.

I do not see anybody seeking recognition, Mr. President, so I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT REFORMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to address some vital management issues at the Department of Commerce and urge Secretary-designate Daley to make use of the management tools Congress has provided to obtain better results for the taxpayers' investment. The Department of Commerce must tackle some endemic management problems before it can successfully carry out its mission of promoting the Nation's international trade, economic growth, and technological advancement.

The main problem with the Department of Commerce may be in the breadth of its mission. Commerce's writ runs from promoting American competitiveness in the global marketplace to providing the weather data we see on the news each night. The Department, which employs 35,000 people and spends $3.5 billion of taxpayer dollars is, in reality, a loose collection of more than 100 programs. In the last Congress, many questioned the value added of this departmental bureaucracy. This culminated in action by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee to report out a bill that would have abolished the Department, as such, and reassigned many of its functions.

Clearly, the Department's new leadership will have a task ahead of it to ensure that its many bureaus and offices are efficiently run and are effectively serving the taxpayers' interest. For example, the General Accounting Office [GAO] has identified the National Weather Service's modernization efforts as being a high risk area which is especially vulnerable to the problems of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. This year, planning for the decennial census is expected to be added to that list. In addition, auditors have found significant accounting problems at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

I hope that the Department of Commerce will be able to improve its operations through effective implementation of recently enacted legislation. Congress has given the agencies like the Department of Commerce the tools to improve their management operations, most notably by passing the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, the Government Performance and Results Act [GPRA] of 1993, and the information management and procurement reforms of the 104th Congress. These laws are designed to get the Federal Government to operate in a sound, business-like manner and implementing these management reforms is a major responsibility for each department head.

The Government Performance and Results Act, for example, can be an effective tool to make Government work better by measuring the success or failure of Government programs and using this information to support budget decisions. For example, GAO found that the Commerce Department shares its mission with at least 71 Federal departments, agencies, and offices. With this type of overlap and duplication, the Department needs to have a clear idea of its primary missions, otherwise it risks doing a lot of things poorly and nothing well at all. GPRA, by focusing on agency missions and results, will give Commerce, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress the information necessary to consolidate and eliminate wasteful and redundant programs at the Department.

I submitted to Secretary-designate Daley several questions regarding his views on implementing GPRA and improving Commerce's financial accountability and information resources management as part of his confirmation process. I look forward to receiving from him a firm commitment to use GPRA's strategic planning process, performance goals, and performance measures to radically transform his agency to better serve the taxpayers.

There are many challenges ahead for Congress and Secretary-designate Daley as we address the problems at the Department of Commerce identified by GAO, the Department's inspector general and others. Certainly, the bipartisan management reforms we have enacted should be implemented to assist in that process. I am sure that together we can work to effectively implement sound management policies and practices and I look forward to achieving those objectives in the coming Congress.

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 one nomination which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LITHUANIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 7

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to Public Law 94–265, 16 U.S.C. 1823(b), to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Extending the Agreement of November 12, 1992, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended (''the 1992 Agreement''). The Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Vilnius on June 5 and October 15, 1996, extends the 1992 Agreement to December 31, 1998.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Lithuania, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 4, 1997.*