

Workers, business executives, small business owners, and farmers across America have contributed to the resurgence in American competitiveness. The ability and determination of working people across America to rise to the challenges of rapidly changing technologies and global economic competition is a great source of strength for this Nation.

Cooperation between the Administration and the Congress on a bipartisan basis has been critical in our efforts to reduce the deficit, to conclude trade agreements that level the global playing field for America, to secure peace and prosperity along America's borders, and to help prepare all Americans to benefit from expanded economic opportunities. I hope we can continue working together to advance these vital goals in the years to come.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 11, 1997.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S FISCAL YEAR 1998 BUDGET REQUEST ACT OF 1997—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 51

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 Governmental Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 202(c)(5)(C)(ii) of the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995 ("the FRMA Act"), I am transmitting the Council of the District of Columbia's "Fiscal Year 1998 Budget Request Act of 1997."

The Council's proposed Fiscal Year 1998 Budget was disapproved by the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (the "Authority") on June 12. Under the FRMA Act, if the Authority disapproves the Council's financial plan and budget, the Mayor must submit that budget to the President to be transmitted to the Congress. My transmittal of the District Council's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents. The budget also does not reflect the effect of my proposed Fiscal Year 1998 District of Columbia revitalization plan.

The Authority is required to transmit separately to the Mayor, the Council, the President, and the Congress a financial plan and budget. The Authority sent its financial plan and budget to the Congress on June 15.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 11, 1997.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 52

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 Labor and Human Resources.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

It is my pleasure to transmit the Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Arts for 1996.

One measure of a great nation is the vitality of its culture, the dedication of its people to nurturing a climate where creativity can flourish. By supporting our museums and theaters, our dance companies and symphony orchestras, our writers and our artists, the National Endowment for the Arts provides such a climate. Look through this report and you will find many reasons to be proud of our Nation's cultural life at the end of the 20th century and what it portends for Americans and the world in the years ahead.

Despite cutbacks in its budget, the Endowment was able to fund thousands of projects all across America—a museum in Sitka, Alaska; a dance company in Miami, Florida; a production of a Eugene O'Neill play in New York City; a Whistler exhibition in Chicago; and artists in schools in all 50 States. Millions of Americans were able to see plays, hear concerts, and participate in the arts in their hometowns, thanks to the work of this small agency.

As we set our priorities for the coming years, let's not forget the vital role the National Endowment for the Arts must continue to play in our national life. The Endowment shows the world that we take pride in American culture here and abroad. It is a beacon, not only of creativity, but of freedom. And let us keep that lamp brightly burning now and for all time.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 11, 1997.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2467. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Virginia Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Plan", received on June 27, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2468. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Royalty Management, Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of a refund under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2469. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Enrichment Corporation, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to the Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2470. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Marketing

and Regulatory Programs, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, received on July 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2471. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to tuberculosis in cattle and bison, received on July 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2472. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, a rule relative to allocation of assets in single-employer plans, received on July 10, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2473. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to Reorganization, Renumbering, and Reinvention of Regulations, received on June 26, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2474. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to rescissions and deferrals dated July 1, 1997; referred jointly, pursuant to order of January 30, 1975, as modified by order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations, the Budget, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Armed Services, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Energy and Natural Resources, Finance, Foreign Relations, Governmental Affairs, and the Judiciary.

EC-2475. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Energy Information Administration's Annual Report to Congress for calendar year 1996 under the Federal Energy Administration Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2476. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules relative to emissions standards, received on July 10, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2477. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report for the six-month period ending March 31, 1997 under the Inspector General Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2478. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase From People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to additions to the procurement list, received on July 11, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2479. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2480. A communication from the Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period October 1, 1996, to March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2481. A communication from the Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, approval of