

During FY 1996, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed eight Space Shuttle flights. NASA also launched 7 expendable launch vehicles, while the Department of Defense launched 9 and the commercial sector launched 13. In the reusable launch vehicle program, Vice President Gore announced NASA's selection of a private sector partner to design, fabricate, and flight test the X-33 vehicle.

Scientists made some dramatic new discoveries in various space-related fields such as space science, Earth science and remote sensing, and life and microgravity science. Most notably, NASA researchers cooperating with the National Science Foundation found possible evidence of ancient microbial life in a meteorite believed to be from Mars.

In aeronautics, activities included the development of technologies to improve performance, increase safety, reduce engine noise, and assist U.S. industry to be more competitive in the world market. Air traffic control activities focused on various automation systems to increase flight safety and enhance the efficient use of air space.

Close international cooperation with Russia occurred in the Shuttle-Mir docking missions and with Canada, Europe, Japan, and Russia in the International Space Station program. The United States also entered into new cooperative agreements with Japan and new partners in South America and Asia.

In conclusion, FY 1996 was a very active and successful year for U.S. aeronautics and space programs. Efforts in these areas have contributed significantly to the Nation's scientific and technical knowledge, international cooperation, environmental health, and economic competitiveness.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 29, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1119) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 286. Resolving that the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Walter H. Capps, a Representative from the State of California.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-279. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Monterey Park, California relative to the Federal Aviation Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-280. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of West Sacramento, California relative to spent nuclear fuel; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-281. A resolution adopted by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association relative to the Missouri River; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-282. A resolution adopted by the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners (Michigan) relative to the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-283. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-284. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the Republic of Macedonia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-285. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Republic of Macedonia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-286. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the government of Greece; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-287. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the European Union; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-288. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to capital investment for the Republic of Macedonia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-289. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Plantation, Florida relative to the proposed "Private Property Rights Implementation Act"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-290. A resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles, California relative to the proposed "Immigration Reform Transition Act of 1997"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 79. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land in the Six Rivers National Forest in the State of California for the benefit of the Hoopa Valley Tribe (Rept. No. 105-117).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 53. A bill to require the general application of the antitrust laws to major league baseball, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-118).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 967. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to benefit Alaska natives and rural residents, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-119).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 661. A bill to provide an administrative process for obtaining a waiver of the coastwise trade laws for certain vessels (Rept. No. 105-121).

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1294. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the consolidation of student loans under the Federal Family Loan Program and the Direct Loan Program (Rept. No. 105-122).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works: Kenneth R. Wykle, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance:

Mary Ann Cohen, of California, to be a judge of the U.S. Tax Court for a term of 15 years after she takes office (Reappointment).

Margaret Ann Hamburg, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Stanford G. Ross, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2002.

David W. Wilcox, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Rita D. Hayes, of South Carolina, to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Charles Rossotti, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

David L. Aaron, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Jacques Gansler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

John E. Mansfield, of Virginia, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2001.

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Steward E. Cranston, 0000.

The following-named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the