

over the household of her Specter grandparents after she was born on January 3, 1944.

Judith was the New Year's baby of Russell for 1944. In New York City, the first born in the New Year probably arrived at 12:01 a.m., but it took 3 days for Russell's first arrival in 1944. She came with a retinue of presents from the town's merchants and to our five-room bungalow at 115 Elm Street.

My sister, Hilda, her mother, was a brilliant graduate from the University of Wichita in 1942, had won a scholarship to Syracuse University to pursue a masters degree in governmental administration. She had met, Arthur Morgensten, a handsome lieutenant stationed at Fort Riley, when he came to Wichita in the fall of 1941 to attend Yom Kippur services. They fell in love. So when he was about to ship overseas to the South Pacific in April 1943, Hilda took the transcontinental train ride to San Francisco where they were married. It was not the typical wartime romance with a weekend honeymoon, because the marriage has lasted 1 day shy of 55 years and is still going strong.

When Hilda came home to Russell, KS, to await Judith's arrival, our family was overjoyed, including me, her little brother, although I took up residence in the scorpion-infested basement and gave up high school basketball to take over Hilda's bookkeeping job at O.K. Rubber Welders I might add—at 50 cents an hour.

For me, Judy was more like a sister than a niece during that time. For my parents, Judy was the apple of their eyes. When our sister, Shirley, took off a year from Oklahoma College for Women to teach country school, my father would leave his junkyard to drive Shirley to school with his virtual constant companion, Judith, sitting beside him in the truck without the modern safeguards of seat belts.

My brother, Morton, returned to Russell to join my father and Arthur in a partnership which moved from junk, that is scrap metal, to used oil field equipment to stripper wells. The Morgenstern children, Judy and Julia, joined by twins Jonathan and Johanna in 1952, were the centerpieces of our close-knit family.

When the children grew older and their parents wanted a Jewish education for them, the Morgensterns moved to Wichita where Hilda took on the job of superintendent of the Hebrew School. Wichita was inadequate so they moved to Denver. Denver was inadequate so they moved to New York City. New York City was inadequate, so they moved to Jerusalem where Hilda and Arthur live to this day.

Meanwhile Judy was a serious and accomplished student receiving a B.A. degree from Wichita State University and M.L.S. and J.D. from Rutgers University. After graduation from law school, she was a staff attorney with the International Trade Office of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1983

through 1986. She then practiced law with the prestigious firm of Siegel, Mandell & Davidson in New York City for 2½ years before joining Sony Electronics, Inc., where she worked from October 1988 to the present attaining the position of vice president of government affairs.

With 16 years of experience as a manager, litigator, and business adviser, she was appointed by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin in 1995 to the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service. She has lectured on international trade law and its application to business. With this extraordinary background, she is preeminently well qualified for the U.S. International Court of Trade.

While it is customary to make a floor speech on confirmation of a nominee, I have taken a little more time of the Senate and the cost of printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because I believe it is worthwhile to note the accomplishments and contributions of families of America's immigrants. We debate the immigration issue in Congress in a variety of contexts, so it is important to chronolog how our country has been enriched by the immigrants' families as evidenced by the new judge for the U.S. International Court of Trade: the Honorable Judith M. Barzilay.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVE POWERS—A GIANT OF THE NEW FRONTIER

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn this morning of the death of Dave Powers, who was one of President Kennedy's closest friends and advisors throughout my brother's entire political career.

President Kennedy loved Dave Powers like a brother, and so did all of us in the Kennedy family. My brother couldn't have had the New Frontier without him, and we will miss him very much.

Dave had a warmth and wit and charm that were impossible to match. His Irish eyes were always smiling, and almost everyone he met became his "pal." His extraordinary common sense and his down-to-earth genius for politics at its best made Dave Powers at home in the White House and in anyone else's house.

President Kennedy and Dave discovered each other while climbing the stairs of three-decker houses in Charlestown, MA, in my brother's first campaign for Congress in 1946, and they were inseparable ever after.

They both were veterans of World War II, and both were new to politics. The instant bond they formed took them to the House, the Senate, the White House, and around the world, including their most moving and memorable journey of all, to the Ireland of their dreams. Together, they touched and improved and inspired the lives of countless people in this country and many other lands.

In happy times and stressful times, Dave had a special human quality that could bring an instant smile from Jack or Jackie, or a hug from John and Caroline. Dave's total recall made him the unofficial historian of the New Frontier. He loved to regale my brother by reciting the earned run average of a Red Sox pitcher, or the name of a State convention delegate from a decade ago.

Later, Dave's extraordinary energy and dedication in carrying out his labor of love at the Kennedy Library made it a magnificent tribute to my brother and the years of the New Frontier. In a very real sense, Jack's Library became Dave's Library too.

I extend my deepest sympathy to Dave's wife, Jo, his children Mary Jo, Diane, and David John, and all of Dave and Jo's wonderful grandchildren.

"David, we hardly knew ye."

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, March 26, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,546,161,688,949.53 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-six billion, one hundred sixty-one million, six hundred eighty-eight thousand, nine hundred forty-nine dollars and fifty-three cents).

One year ago, March 26, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,377,852,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-seven billion, eight hundred fifty-two million).

Five years ago, March 26, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,224,085,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred twenty-four billion, eighty-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, March 26, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$457,356,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-seven billion, three hundred fifty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,088,805,688,949.53 (Five trillion, eighty-eight billion, eight hundred five million, six hundred eighty-eight thousand, nine hundred forty-nine dollars and fifty-three cents) during the past 25 years.

#### SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THE HIGH TECH INDUSTRY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, it's painfully obvious that the nation faces a serious problem in providing our companies with the skilled workers they need to grow and create jobs in America. We do not need a report to tell us there's a problem. All one needs to look at are the job ads in newspapers and on the Internet which are

exploding with offers of high tech jobs that cannot be filled. There are even reported shortages of the recruiters needed to recruit other skilled workers.

There is ample evidence that companies face an inability to fill key skilled positions. The Federal Reserve's latest survey of nationwide economic conditions made public on March 19 stated "shortages of both skilled and entry-level workers worsened."

The unemployment rate among electrical engineers nationwide is 0.4 percent. Congressional testimony shows that leading American companies like Microsoft and Sun Microsystems have over 2,000 unfilled positions each. CEOs of companies like Dell Computers and Texas Instruments warn that America's global leadership in high technology fields will be threatened if this problem is not addressed. "We are disarming the economy of the United States if we don't allow skilled workers to come in," explained Dell Computer Corp. CEO Michael Dell.

Companies are so desperate for workers they are even hiring teenagers part-time at \$50,000 a year, as The Washington Post reported in a March 1st front-page article. The National Software Alliance, a consortium of concerned government, industry, and academic leaders that includes the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force has warned that the current severe understaffing could lead to inflation and lower productivity and threaten America's competitiveness.

And in the last two years, difficulties finding workers, economic growth and the globalization of business has led to a dramatic increase in the use of H-1B visas for skilled foreign-born professionals. The situation has changed so swiftly that the allotment of these visas will be exhausted an astounding four to five months before the end of this fiscal year.

The recent General Accounting Office report is little more than an inside-the-beltway squabble over how to measure shortages that ignores the real marketplace. The GAO report focused on one study by the Commerce Department, a study that was not even raised by witnesses at a recent Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on H-1B visas. In turn, the Commerce Department has responded by criticizing GAO for doing a report that "contains several inaccuracies."

The GAO acknowledges it "did not perform any independent analysis to determine whether a shortage of IT workers exists in the United States" but merely critiqued the methodology of a Commerce Department study, a critique the Commerce Department critiques. In fact, the GAO does not question that the U.S. economy will create more than 100,000 jobs a year in information technology over the next decade.

There is a legitimate debate about how best to address the supply of needed skilled workers. The legislation I have introduced is a balanced approach

that utilizes a combination of college scholarships for young people, training for the unemployed, and an increase in foreign-born professionals on H-1B temporary visas. The legislation, supported by my colleagues Senators HATCH, MCCAIN, DEWINE, SPECTER, GRAMS and BROWNBACK, will be strongly pushed before the April recess. If American companies cannot find home grown talent, and if they cannot bring talent to this country, a large number are likely to move key operations overseas, sending those and related jobs currently held by Americans with them. We do not want that to happen. I encourage my colleagues to support the American Competitiveness Act.

I ask unanimous consent that letters of support for the bill from Empower America's Jack Kemp, the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as well as recent editorials in the Oakland Press and the Washington Times be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARCH 18, 1998.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,  
*President of the United States,*  
*The White House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As you are aware, America's high-technology firms are among the most dynamic and innovative in the world today. From the stock market—where the current boom has been fueled, in large part, by high-tech stocks—to the retail market—where consumers benefit from steadily decreasing prices and expanding choices—the success of U.S. high-tech businesses has played an integral role in creating prosperity and opportunity that transcends Silicon Valley.

Despite aggressive recruitment and education efforts, America's high-technology sector faces a severe labor shortage. The unemployment rate among electrical engineers has plummeted to 0.4%. According to the Information Technology Association of America, more than 346,000 skilled positions remain vacant. A shortage of skilled workers is preventing high-tech U.S. firms from growing at their full potential.

By November of 1997, the U.S. issued its annual cap of 65,000 H-1B temporary visas, which allow skilled foreign professionals to work in the United States. This year the cap will be hit at least four months before the end of the fiscal year, shutting the door to thousands of skilled employees and causing serious disruption to high-tech industry. U.S. companies and universities will effectively lose access to a crucial pool of skilled labor within eighteen months unless the cap is expanded. This will devastate many of the most dynamic sectors of our economy.

In public statements by Commerce Secretary Daley, and in Congressional testimony from the Department of Labor, your administration has not only expressed opposition to increasing the cap; it has insisted on vastly expanded regulatory burdens that will dramatically reduce U.S. employers' access to this key source of personnel.

Equally troubling, these so-called reforms are packaged in a way that can only be described as anti-immigrant, and I do not use the term casually. It cannot be lost on Department of Labor officials that the majority of the people entering the United States on H-1B visas are of Hispanic or Asian Pa-

cific origin. Cypress Semiconductor CEO T.J. Rodgers recently testified to Congress, "Most of our H-1B hires are individuals of either Asian Pacific or Hispanic descent, just like many other immigrants. Neither these individuals nor anyone who comes through the family immigration or refugee system should be maligned unfairly for 'taking away American jobs.'" I agree.

Mr. Rodgers has also stated, "We would lose jobs without our immigrant talent. The logic of those who claim otherwise including high-ranking members of the Clinton Administration, borders on folly."

I have been dismayed to hear nativist appeals to "protect U.S. workers" coming from the Labor Department. I urge you to overrule those protectionist sentiments and support an increase in the H-1B cap without attaching new and highly restrictive measures that will harm the H-1B recipients, U.S. employers, and the U.S. economy. These new burdens will ultimately cost American jobs by pushing American firms offshore.

I also urge you to support the American Competitiveness Act, authored by Senator Spencer Abraham. This bill increases the cap on H-1B visas sufficiently to meet the current needs of companies and universities; it provides college scholarships for 20,000 more young people a year to study in math, engineering, and computer science; and it targets enforcement at serious violators of the H-1B program, rather than restricting the ability of law-abiding employers to hire needed employees.

The American Competitiveness Act will allow an additional 25,000 skilled workers to enter the United States this year on H-1B visas. This and its attention to education will help to ameliorate labor shortages in high-tech industry now and in the future. In the interest of encouraging economic growth and expanding employment opportunities throughout the entire economy, I hope that you will instruct members of your administration to end their nativist attacks and support Senator Abraham's bill.

Very sincerely yours,

Jack Kemp.

NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN LEGAL CONSORTIUM,  
*Washington, DC., March 26, 1998.*

Senator SPENCER ABRAHAM,  
*Dirksen Senate Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR ABRAHAM: We are writing to you regarding your proposal, S. 1723, which seeks to increase the annual number of H-1B visas to allow U.S. companies to employ additional foreign-born professionals on a temporary basis. First and foremost, we would like to thank you for your leadership in Congress in support of legal immigration. In particular, the Asian Pacific American community recognizes your strong leadership in ensuring the preservation of family immigration during the 1996 debates in Congress.

Your proposal to increase the annual number of H-1B visas further highlights the significant contributions that immigrants make to this country and to the U.S. economy. As you know, 38% of those entering the United States through the H-1B program are from Asian countries, with the largest numbers coming from India, China, Japan and the Philippines. Your proposal, if passed, will help to guarantee that the American economy will continue to benefit from the talents and skills of individuals from Asia.

It has come to our attention, however, that House Immigration Subcommittee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) is preparing to add a provision in the companion House bill which would impose new restrictions on family immigration. Although we support the entry of

more professionals under the H1-B visa program, we would oppose any legislation that contained provisions to limit or further restrict the current family immigration system in any way. We understand that you will strenuously oppose any attempt by Rep. Smith or others to add a "poison pill" provision on family immigration, and that you will withdraw your bill if such a provision is in fact added to the final version.

In addition, we hope that you will be vigilant in pushing for all appropriate safeguards and measures to protect the wages and working conditions of H1-B workers, with proper enforcement mechanisms should an employer fail to comply with these measures.

We understand that your bill will be marked up on April 2 before the full Senate Judiciary Committee. We support your bill based on your commitment and continued assurance to withdraw the bill if a provision is added that limits or further restricts family immigration in any way.

Sincerely,

KAREN K. NARASAKI,  
*Executive Director.*

U.S. HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
*Washington, DC, March 26, 1998.*  
Hon. SPENCER ABRAHAM,  
*U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR ABRAHAM: On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce we would like to congratulate you for introducing legislation such as the American Competitiveness Act. This legislation will help many Hispanic-owned businesses in finding the key personnel they need to grow and prosper in an increasingly competitive global market.

As you know, many companies are finding it extremely difficult to find skilled personnel. Clearly there is a shortage of skilled workers in America, particularly in high technology fields. This has meant that many companies are leaving positions unfilled, which affects their ability to provide new products and services to customers, and to create more jobs in this country. Moreover, many of our members are establishing greater ties to global export markets. To succeed, they often need people who have grown up and experienced the cultures and markets to which these companies are exporting.

The need for skilled people will not disappear soon. And your legislation takes a balanced approach by raising the cap on H1-B visas for foreign-born professionals, while also increasing efforts at education and training in this country.

As you know the USHCC's goal is to represent the interests of over one million Hispanic-owned businesses in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. With over 210 Hispanic Chambers of Commerce across the country, the USHCC has become the umbrella organization which actively promotes the growth and development of Hispanic entrepreneurs.

Sincerely,

JOSE F. NINO,  
*President/CEO.*

[From the Oakland Press, Mar. 19, 1998]  
ADMITTING MORE IMMIGRANTS WOULD  
PROVIDE MORE WORKERS  
(By Neil Munro)

Would you believe we're running out of workers in this country?

It's true, especially those capable of serving in our technology industry—computer programmers, for example. Some employers in Oakland County reportedly are having a problem finding enough workers.

But something can be done to ease the squeeze, as they say.

And U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham is working on it.

He has introduced legislation to increase the number of temporary immigrants who can come here to work in high-skilled occupations. A 1990 law limits their ranks to 65,000 annually.

This year, that is expected to be reached by summer. Just a year or so ago, it came into play for the first time. And if there is no change, the limit will be enforced earlier next year, even sooner the year after that, and so on.

Abraham's bill would increase the cap to 90,000 this year, automatically increase that by 25,000 if it is reached, and automatically keep moving it upward in subsequent years.

The obvious question is why can't employers find such workers in this country?

It seems youngsters aren't being encouraged or trained to enter the field—the old disconnection between education, people's expectations and the real world.

In addition, there have been published complaints that too many employers are unwilling to hire older qualified Americans who say they can't re-enter the high-tech work force they left.

Both those who meet that definition and people who oppose added immigration argue that some employers prefer younger, cheaper workers who are willing to put in more hours than they perhaps should.

Whatever the truth of all this may be, the fact is a significant employee shortage in the computer industry—or any other industry—would likely end the nation's longest-running economic boom. That boom began in 1990.

We really wouldn't want to end up with a lot of Americans lining up for unemployment checks again.

Except for largely rural backwaters and resort areas in which work is highly seasonal, joblessness is all but unknown in Michigan.

The unemployment rate in Oakland County, for instance, is just 3 percent of the work force—about the number of people normally between jobs because they're changing them voluntarily.

Of course, there's nothing bad about immigrants. Except for native Americans, our families all originally are from somewhere else. Abraham's bill no doubt will face opposition for the above-mentioned reasons. But it's hard to imagine that the nation dares do without it.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 16, 1998]

FRUITS OF THE BUMPER JOB CROP

(By Donald Lambro)

The continuing decline in America's jobless rate to 4.6 percent, the lowest level in nearly 30 years, is welcome news. We added another 310,000 workers to payrolls last month, and more than 3.4 million over the past year.

"It's worker heaven driven by consumer heaven. There are more jobs for more people with more pay and more worker power than in decades. It's stunning," economist Allen Sinai told The Washington Post's business reporter John Berry.

Traditionally, economists have viewed full employment to be around 4 percent. That is the normal percentage of people who are at any given time out of work because of layoffs, bankruptcies or job changes. So, with some exceptions (in West Virginia the jobless rate is a bleak 6.4 percent), we are at nearly full employment in the economy right now.

But this good news on the job front masks a serious labor force problem that is not getting the news media attention it deserves: not enough qualified workers to meet the growing demand of America's expanding high-tech industries.

Sen. Spencer Abraham of Michigan put this issue into sharp perspective in a recent speech in the Senate:

"All is not well with this crucial sector of our economy. American companies today are engaged in fierce competition in global markets. To stay ahead in that competition, they must win the battle for human capital. But companies across America are faced with severe high-skilled labor shortages that threaten their competitiveness in this new Information Age economy."

A study by Virginia Tech for the Information Technology Association of America finds there are now more than 340,000 unfilled, high-skilled U.S. jobs in the information technology industry. And this excludes government agencies, non-profits, mass transit systems and businesses with 100 employees or less.

In this one high-tech field alone, the U.S. Department of Labor projects that American businesses will create more than 130,000 information technology jobs a year over the next 10 years. That's 1.3 million job openings. But our colleges and universities are producing less than a fourth of the number of qualified graduates needed to fill them.

The National Software Alliance, a consortium of industry, government and academic leaders, recently concluded that "The supply of computer science graduates is far short of the number needed by industry."

This is a critical problem that threatens to undermine economic growth and new job creation. Computer hardware and software industries have become one of the fastest-growing sectors of our economy and now account for about a third of our economic growth rate. A study by the Hudson Institute, an Indiana think tank, warns that if this shortfall persists, it will result in a 5 percent decline in the rate of economic growth—the equivalent of \$200 billion in lost output.

High-tech companies around the country are already reporting that they have had to forgo major new contracts because they cannot find enough skilled workers to fulfill them. This is resulting in untold billions of dollars in lost business and lost employment opportunities.

Mr. Abraham has a short-term solution to this problem and a long-term one as well.

In the short term, he proposes we modestly raise the immigration restrictions on the entry of skilled workers from abroad by about 25,000. The number of allowable skilled temporary workers has been frozen at 65,000 for nearly a decade and last year businesses reached that yearly limit by the middle of August. This year that limit could be reached in May.

His bill, the American Competitiveness Act, also takes a long-term approach to the problem, offering \$50 million to pay for more than 20,000 scholarships each year for low-income students in the fields of math, engineering and computer sciences. It also contains some additional funding to train unemployed workers for related high-tech jobs.

No doubt his bill will be attacked by the protectionists and nativists who continue to believe immigrants are a net cost to our economy when, as the declining jobless rate overwhelming shows, they are a net plus as workers and job-creating employers.

But there is a very strong argument against the anti-immigration offensive that every American will understand:

"If American companies cannot find home-grown talent, and if they cannot bring talent to this country, a large number are likely to move key operations overseas, sending those and related jobs currently held by Americans with them," Mr. Abraham told his Senate colleagues last week.

Needless to say, his bill has a lot of support among hundreds of high-tech executives like T. J. Rodgers, chief executive of Cypress Semiconductor, Scott McNealy of Sun

Microsystems, and Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, all of whom are desperate for skilled workers. Mr. Gates and Mr. McNealy alone have 4,522 technical job openings right now that they cannot fill.

"Raising these [skilled immigrant] caps . . . would be a good thing for the technology industry and for the country," Mr. Gates told the Senate earlier this month.

Not too many years ago the overriding issue in our country was unemployment and job security. Today it is skilled, high-paying jobs going begging and the specter of the mighty American economy turning away business opportunities and markets because it lacks qualified workers.

#### 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-4443. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 20, 1998; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4444. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, the report of the Comprehensive Electricity Competition Plan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4445. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 26, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4446. A communication from the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4447. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4448. A communication from the General Sales Manager and Vice President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the monetization report for the fiscal years 1993 through 1995; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4449. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Regulations Policy and Management, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4450. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4451. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 26, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4452. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4453. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee for Purchase

from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4454. A communication from the Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4455. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the strategic plan for fiscal years 1999 through 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4456. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of five rules received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4457. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### 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-372. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Appropriations.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 147

Whereas, The Great Lakes are unique and priceless resources. In addition to their importance as the world's most accessible source of fresh water, this network of inland seas plays pivotal roles in transportation and in the economies of the bordering states and Ontario; and

Whereas, A key component of Michigan's maritime infrastructure is our system of small harbors. These harbors are in jeopardy of losing the federal funding that provides for maintenance through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers has reportedly informed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources that it plans to eliminate funds for small harbor dredging and maintaining seawalls and docks. For many years, the federal government and the state have operated a partnership in keeping the small harbors. While these are not major contributors to commercial interests, the nearly fifty small harbors presently in jeopardy are very important to boating and fishing activities in this state. Boating and fishing represent as much as one fifth of the state's tourism industry, a fundamental part of our economy; and

Whereas, Another federal program in danger of being eliminated or inadequately funded is the work of combating the sea lamprey in the Great Lakes. This species is a persistent threat to fishing. Individual states should not be required to bear this economic burden alone. The federal government has underfunded the lamprey control program to an extent that forces Michigan to spend much more than it should to deal with a problem facing several states and our neighbors in Canada; and

Whereas, if the federal government abandons its commitments in the areas of small harbor maintenance and lamprey control, the ultimate result will be higher costs and more difficulties for the region's economy and countless communities. To eliminate or seriously cut federal investment in the Great Lakes is a short-sighted approach to take; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate*, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide full funding for harbor maintenance and lamprey control in the Great Lakes and to urge other Great Lakes states to join in this effort; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the legislatures and governors of the other states bordering the Great Lakes.

POM-373. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire; to the Committee on Finance.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION 55

Whereas, the forests of New Hampshire are one of the state's most valuable natural resources, providing wood and timber products, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, clean air and water, and scenic vistas throughout the state; and

Whereas, there are more than 80,000 owners of forestland in New Hampshire; and

Whereas, the forest products industry is the third largest sector of the state's manufacturing economy, employing over 15,000 individuals and providing economic benefits to communities throughout the state; and

Whereas, the ice storm of January 1998 had a significant effect upon the forests of New Hampshire by damaging hundreds of thousands of acres of timberland; and

Whereas, the storm caused financial loss to landowners throughout the state estimated in the tens of millions of dollars; and

Whereas, the storm caused financial loss to landowners throughout the state estimated in the tens of millions of dollars; and

*Resolved by the House of Representatives*: That the New Hampshire house of representatives hereby urges landowners of the State to take all necessary and responsible actions to protect forests from future threats of fire and insect and disease outbreaks; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives hereby urges municipalities to work closely with landowners, foresters, loggers, and arborists to provide for the removal of storm-damaged timber in a timely, efficient, and safe manner; and

That the New Hampshire House of Representatives urges landowners of the state to utilize wood from the ice storm of 1998 in the State's biomass plants and pulpwood plants; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives hereby commends the New Hampshire congressional delegation for their efforts to assure federal assistance to the State's landowners and forest industry in the form of low-interest loans and cost-share programs that encourage responsible land stewardship; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives hereby encourages the New Hampshire congressional delegation to strive to provide tax incentives that recognize the economic loss suffered as a result of the ice storm of 1998; and

That copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of representatives, be forwarded by the clerk of the House of Representatives to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation, and to the state library.

POM-374. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of New