

his staff, Eric Ueland and Libby Jarvis; Minority Leader TOM DASCHLE, and his staff, Joan Huffer; Senator RICK SANTORUM and his staff, Randy Brandt; Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD and his staff, Grace Reef; and Megan Hauck, who contributed as a advisor to Senator DON NICKLES, as well as working at the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Legislation and the White House.

Throughout much of the process, Members and staff were indebted to the expertise of the Director of the Office of Family Assistance at the Administration of Children and Families, Andrew Bush and the Assistant Secretary for Human Service Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Don Winstead.

The Congress simply could not do our work, were it not for the incredibly talented and hardworking individuals serving in the congressional support agencies. We owe a substantial debt of gratitude for the work done by Gene Falk, Melinda Gish, and Carmen Solomon Fears at the Congressional Research Service; Shelia Dacey at the Congressional Budget Office; and Ruth Ernst at the Office of the Legislative Council.

As ranking member and then chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I was well served by policy leads, Hope Cooper and Becky Shipp; health policy director, Mark Hayes; deputy staff director, Ted Totman; and staff director for the Finance Committee, Kolan Davis.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WENDY WASSERSTEIN

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, on Monday, January 30, our country lost, all too prematurely, Wendy Wasserstein, a daughter of New York and one of our Nation's great playwrights and essayists.

Wendy Wasserstein grew up in Brooklyn and Manhattan and was educated at Mount Holyoke College, the City College of New York, and Yale University School of Drama. She is best known for her 1989 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play, "The Heidi Chronicles" and Tony-nominated play, "The Sisters Rosensweig". She wrote most recently, "Third", a play that opened in October at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Her first novel, "Elements of Style", will be coming out in April.

Throughout Wendy Wasserstein's career, she wrote with wit and an acute sensitivity to the challenges facing women negotiating the social changes of the last 40 years. She had the courage to dig deeply into her own experiences to write thoughtfully and compassionately about women, New York, and her Jewish roots.

Wendy Wasserstein is best known for her work in the theater and literary

world, but she cared deeply about progressive politics, advocacy for the arts, and worked to create richer opportunities for women in the theater. Having grown up attending theater and ballet performances on a weekly basis with her family, she also believed that all children should have the opportunity to be exposed to the arts. She gave back to the city that shaped her as an artist by making the theater accessible to New York's inner-city students through a program she instigated which is now called Open Doors. Through this program, she mentored students at the Young Women's Leadership School, a college prep public school in Harlem. She wrote of the program, " * * * if a city is fortunate enough to house an entire theater district, shouldn't access to the stage life within it be what makes coming of age in New York different from any other American city?"

On a personal level, she was described by her friend, New York Times editorial page editor Gail Collins, as: " * * * a charter member of the company of nice women, a river of accommodating humanity that flows through Manhattan just as it flows through Des Moines and Oneonta, N.Y., organizing library fund-raisers, running day care centers, ordering prescriptions for elderly parents, buying all the birthday presents and giving career counseling to the nephew of a very remote acquaintance who is trying to decide between making it big on Broadway and dentistry."

We can only imagine what future gifts to the theater, journalism, literature and her community Wendy Wasserstein might have made. I am grateful for having known her, and I extend my condolences to her young daughter Lucy Jane and to the entire Wasserstein family. We have lost someone who loved New York with a big, big heart, and New York and our Nation loved her back. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—PM 36

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 jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on the Budget; and Appropriations.

America's economy is growing at a healthy pace, and more Americans are working than ever. In the face of a series of challenges, including most recently devastating natural disasters, Americans have stood firm, and America's economy has demonstrated its strength and resilience time and again.

My Administration has focused the Nation's resources on our highest priority: protecting our citizens and our homeland. Working with Congress, we have given our men and women on the frontlines in the War on Terror the funding they need to defeat the enemy and detect, disrupt, and dismantle terrorist plots and operations. We continue to help emerging democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq stand on their own. As the Afghan and Iraqi peoples assume greater responsibility for their own security and for defeating the terrorists, our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.

My Administration has responded to major economic challenges by following this vital principle: The American economy grows when people are allowed to keep more of what they earn, to save and spend as they see fit. The results are clear.

Since May 2003, when I signed into law major tax relief, America has added more than four and a half million new jobs. Productivity is high, disposable income is up, household wealth is at record levels, consumer confidence has climbed, small businesses are expanding, and more Americans own their homes than at any time in our Nation's history.

Our economy is the envy of the industrialized world. To build and maintain our competitive edge, my Administration has a broad agenda to promote America's long-term economic strength. We are opening new markets to American-made goods and services through trade agreements. We are proposing reforms to prevent needless litigation and burdensome regulations. Through major reforms of our public schools, we are preparing our children to compete and succeed in the global economy. And my Budget includes an American Competitiveness Initiative that targets funding to advance technology, better prepare American children in math and science, develop and train a high-tech workforce, and further strengthen the environment for private-sector innovation and entrepreneurship.

In our efforts to keep our economy strong and competitive, we will resist calls to raise taxes on America's workers, families, and businesses. Unless we act to make tax relief permanent, income tax rates eventually will rise, the marriage penalty will climb, the child