

Vermont agriculture. Locally, Harold is active in the St. Patrick's Church and the Franklin County Maple Producers Co-op. On the State level, he has served as president of the Green Mountain Dairy Farmers Federation of Cooperatives and as a director with both the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association and the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council.

Regionally, Harold was the chairperson of the Vermont Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact Commission. In fact, Harold's tireless efforts were a key force in the establishment and successful implementation of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact. The long-standing relationship between Harold and the Cooperative with the Vermont Congressional Delegation was critical in the passage of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact at the national level which provided stability to dairy farmer income without adverse effects on consumers. He has also served as Chair of the Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives.

In addition to championing the Compact, Harold has been active in other national dairy industry organizations serving the interests of dairy farmers beyond Vermont on the U.S. Dairy Export Council, and the National Milk Producers Federation. As Chair of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board, he was awarded the Richard E. Ling Award for the distinguished service in January of 2001.

The St. Albans Cooperative Creamery was most fortunate to benefit from Harold's leadership over his years as Director beginning in 1981, and as board president since 1988. In his 24 years with the Cooperative, Harold has seen the Cooperative increase in yearly milk volume to over a billion pounds, build a partnership with Ben & Jerry's ice cream, expand its territory into New York State, acquire the Independent Dairymen's Association and develop a strategic relationship with Dairy Farmers of America and Dairy Marketing Services.

Throughout his distinguished career, Harold has remained among my most trusted advisers on farm policy. I know that I can always count on him to provide the unvarnished truth, based on experience forged on a Vermont dairy farm with its tradition of hard work, common sense, simplicity, love of family and service to community, state and country. I join countless Vermonters and Americans as we all thank Harold for his years of service and consider myself fortunate to call him my friend.●

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 nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-606. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual surplus property report for fiscal year 2004; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-607. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on infertility and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases from 2000 to 2003; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-608. A communication from the Human Resource Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Administration, received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-609. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning surplus Federal real property disposed of to educational institutions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-610. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Commissioner of Education and Statistics, received on January 25, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-611. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, received on January 25, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-612. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the nomination confirmed for the position of Under Secretary, received on January 25, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-613. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Deputy Secretary, on January 25, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-614. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cardiovascular and Neurological Devices; Reclassification of Two Embolization Devices" (Doc. No. 20003N-0567) received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-615. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management

Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Obstetrical and Gynecological Devices; Classification of the Assisted Reproduction Laser System" (Doc. No. 2004N-0530) received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-616. A communication from Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Scientific Based Evaluation Methods—Notice of Final Priority" (RIN1890-ZA00) received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-617. A communication from Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Vaccination Clinics; User Fees for Investigational New Drug (IND) Influenza Vaccine Services and Vaccines" (RIN0920-AA11) received on January 25, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-618. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-619. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-620. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Commission's management controls for fiscal year 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-621. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OCC Guidelines Establishing Standards for National Banks' Residential Mortgage Lending Practices" (RIN1557-AC93) received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-622. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2005 Report on Foreign Policy Controls; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-623. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Communities Eligible for the Sale of Flood Insurance" (Doc. No. FEMA-7774 (44 FR 64)) received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-624. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (44 CFR 67) received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-625. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (Doc. No. FEMA-D-7565 (44