

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a treaty which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:26 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 614. An act to provide access to and use of information by Federal agencies in order to reduce improper payments, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1321. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the manufacture and introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of rinse-off cosmetics intentionally-added plastic microbeads.

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-3678. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0035) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3679. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Cotton and Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defining Bona Fide Cotton Spot Markets for the World Cotton Futures Contract" ((RIN0581-AD38) (Docket No. AMS-CN-14-0050)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3680. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Soybean Promotion and Research: Amend the Order to Adjust Representation on the United Soybean Board" (Docket No. AMS-LPS-15-0016) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3681. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Domestic Dates Produced or

Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0034) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3682. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of Exemption Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0046) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3683. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California and Imported Table Grapes; Relaxation of Handling Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0031) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3684. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hardwood Lumber and Hardwood Plywood Promotion, Research, and Information Order: Termination of Rulemaking Proceeding" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0074) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3685. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal year 2011 Procurement, Marine Corps and Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps, funds, and was assigned Navy case number 14-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3686. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3687. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3688. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3689. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Accounting Requirements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program" (RIN2506-AC39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on No-

vember 23, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3690. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Burundi; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3691. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Export Administration Regulations to Add XBS Epoxy System to the List of 0Y521 Series; Technical Amendment to Update Other 0Y521 Items." (RIN0694-AG70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3692. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wassenaar Arrangement 2014 Plenary Agreements Implementation and Country Policy Amendments; Correction" (RIN0694-AG44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3693. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Walnuts Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0026) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3694. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Refinements to Policies and Procedures for Market-Based Rates for Wholesale Sales of Electric Energy, Capacity and Ancillary Services by Public Utilities" ((RIN1902-AE85) (Docket No. RM14-14)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 23, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3695. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyber Security Event Notifications" (Regulatory Guide 5.83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3696. A communication from the Admiral, Naval Reactors, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports relative to the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's reports on environmental monitoring and radioactive waste disposal, radiation exposure, and occupational safety and health; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3697. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Contract Year 2016 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs" (RIN0938-AS20) received