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THE PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED *Ag*

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

March 26, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

WCF

Dear Mr. President:

It is the duty of the Department of Commerce to foster, promote, and develop the foreign and domestic commerce of the United States. This letter is to provide you with a summary record of how the Department has fulfilled this responsibility during my stewardship as Secretary during the past two years and almost two months.

Promoting Sales of American Goods Abroad

From 1972 to 1974, American exports have doubled and the Commerce Department has played an active part in encouraging the sale abroad of the products of the working men and women of America.

- Secretarial trade missions abroad to promote markets for United States products have been made to Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East.
- The Department has welcomed and consulted with in Washington Commercial Ministers from 18 foreign nations in 1973, 27 nations in 1974, and eight nations thus far in 1975.
- Three new trade centers have been established in Taipei, Singapore and Tehran to promote U.S. exports and their related jobs in the U.S.

- The Commerce Action Group on the Near East (CAGNE) has been organized to capitalize on the lucrative export markets of the Middle Eastern nations.
- The East-West Trade Advisory Committee of businessmen was established to foster the promotion of trade with the socialist nations. In this same spirit the requirement of validated licenses for certain categories of exports to these nations has been reduced from 550 to 75.
- Our Department worked closely with the Congress in support of the Trade Act of 1974.
- We helped establish and implement effective, private industry consultation in support of U.S. negotiators at the GATT talks. This has started with a series of 18 briefings for 600 industry participants, and will continue for the balance of the negotiations.
- Instituted quarterly meetings with the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs to coordinate the efforts of the Departments of Commerce and State in providing more effective commercial representation abroad for American business.

The Merchant Marine

The Commerce Department, through implementation of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970, has continued the significant revitalization of our privately-owned shipping fleet.

- We have awarded contracts for the building of 19 ships including the largest ships ever to be built in this Country.
- With government subsidy of \$431 million, 2.8 million deadweight tons have been produced with a total value of \$1.2 billion.
- Shipping productivity has improved, with newer ships requiring significantly smaller crews, yet hauling larger cargoes.
- The acute problems of the U.S. tanker fleet as a result of the oil embargo have been addressed for an equitable solution.

Energy

The Department of Commerce has taken a number of steps to achieve your energy goals by encouraging energy conservation in the short-run and development of energy resources in the long-run.

- We have instituted a voluntary program for labeling household appliances to indicate their energy efficiency for the benefit of consumers, as well as to promote energy conservation.
- We have embarked on a voluntary program with the appliance industry to realize a 20 percent increase in energy efficiency by 1980.

- We have been meeting with the major energy-consuming industries and representatives of the Federal Energy Administration to develop energy consumption reporting systems and conservation goals for 1980.
- We have encouraged energy conservation in private business through such programs as SavEnergy Citations, instructive and educational meetings, manuals, films, and the organization of the National Industrial Energy Conservation Council.
- The Commerce Technical Advisory Board established a panel which produced an independent report on achieving national energy independence.

The Domestic Economy

One of our top priorities has been to improve the dialogue between this Department and the American business community. To this end, the Department has taken the following measures.

- Instituted a series of briefings by Chief Executive Officers of representative American industries for Departmental Executives.
- Organized Conferences on Inflation in Pittsburgh and Detroit for the Chief Executives of 150 corporations to express their views on economic matters for the benefit of the President.

- The U.S. Travel Service implemented a marketing program which resulted in part in a \$4.7 billion contribution to our economy from foreign tourists. U.S.T.S. has also geared up to attract nearly 30 million visitors for our Bicentennial in 1976.

Miscellaneous

- The Office of Minority Business Enterprise has been reorganized to encourage more effectively the full participation of all Americans in our economic system. This effort has included assisting over 40,000 minority businesses, with over \$270 million in loans and almost \$2 billion in purchasing from minority firms.
- Achieved a breakthrough in equal rights for women when the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy became the first Federal service academy to admit women.
- As a result of legislation, we established a new agency in the Department, The National Fire Prevention and Control Administration to promote the safety of the American public.
- The Commerce Department took the lead in efforts to restrict international harvesting of whales. The Department developed and enforced effective regulations under the Marine Mammal Protection

Act and, working closely with industry and conservationists, developed rules which have resulted in a substantial decline in porpoise mortality in the tuna fishing industry.

- Assumed a leadership role in the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries to establish "catch" quotas to halt an overall decline of fish stocks and to insure their recovery.
- Through the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission and bilateral consultations with Japan, the USSR and Canada, the U.S. achieved some success in restricting fishing to levels more consistent with stock abundance.
- The Patent and Trademark Office has reduced the pendency time required for an application from a high of 37 months to 18 months.
- Significant milestones were achieved in reducing the impact of natural disasters. In addition to major satellite monitoring advances there have been significant strides in programs of severe weather observations and in providing more accurate and timely information to the public.

- Advances have been made in expanding and modernizing weather radar coverage of the Nation; in expanding weather wire service to the media and NOAA Weather Radio direct communication to the public; in cooperative efforts with local communities for preparedness planning; and in initiating a plan for major automation and modernization of the field functions of the Weather Service.

- Advances have been made in satellite systems for continuous surveillance of the earth's weather. The establishment of an operational geostationary satellite system in March 1975, was a landmark achievement. Continuous day and night coverage of storms over the U.S. and adjacent areas is now a reality, allowing us to maintain a constant watch for potential disasters.

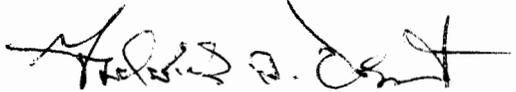
- The Federal Coastal Zone Management Program was passed into law, developed, and implemented. In the fifteen months since the program was funded, 29 of the 30 coastal States and two of the four territories have applied for and received program development grants. In March of this year, only twelve months after the first Federal grants became available, the first four States submitted their management programs for Federal review and approval.

- On January 30, 1975, the site and remains of the USS MONITOR was designated as the Nation's first marine sanctuary after having received the approval of the President. Authorized under Title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, this program provides an important new tool for the purpose of preserving and restoring valuable ocean areas for their conservation, recreation, ecological or aesthetic values.
- We have initiated through the Advertising Council a program on the American enterprise system which will be introduced next summer in the printed and electronic media to enhance public understanding and attitudes.
- Developed a nationwide business news radio network over which a daily "Commerce News Report" is fed through radio networks to about 3,000 local stations.
- To promote understanding of the Administration policies and programs -- held 58 Secretarial Press Conferences, delivered 188 speeches, held 43 TV and radio interviews and participated in 29 editorial board meetings.
- Commerce led all other departments in exceeding its goal and the highest percentage of participation in the 1974 Combined Federal Campaign.... simply put, we cared and gave the most.

The men and women of the Department of Commerce are dedicated to this Nation and its economic system. I am sure that they will work under the leadership of your new Secretary in furtherance of your Administration's and the Department's objectives in a spirit of commitment and achievement.

I am grateful for the privilege of serving the Nation in the Department of Commerce and for your leadership and support.

Respectfully yours, . . .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Orr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Secretary of Commerce