

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



called section 530 relief requirements — provisions contained in section 530 of the Revenue Act of 1978. In general, a business can be relieved of certain federal employment tax obligations if it:

- had a reasonable basis for not treating workers as employees,
- was consistent in its treatment of any similar workers as contractors, and
- consistently filed required information returns with the IRS.

IRS tax examiners will provide the new explanation of section 530 relief requirements at the beginning of any inquiry into worker classification and will answer any questions about eligibility for this relief.

—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
11/06/96

IRS ANNOUNCES MODEL SIMPLE RETIREMENT PLAN

■(WASHINGTON) The Internal Revenue Service recently announced the release of Form 5305-SIMPLE. Section 1421 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-188), signed into law on August 20, 1996, created the Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE Plan) effective in 1997. SIMPLE Plans offer small employers a simplified option for providing retirement income for employees through salary reduction and matching contributions that are made to individual retirement accounts or annuities (IRAs).

Form 5305-SIMPLE provides small employers with an easy way to adopt a SIMPLE Plan by using a model plan document, notification to employees, and salary reduction agreement. For the 1997 calendar year, the model SIMPLE Plan can be made effective as early as Jan. 1 and as late as Oct. 1.

—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
11/06/96

CRIME & JUDICIARY

NICKLES REQUESTS PROBE OF TATUM MURDER

■(GIT) Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles on Wednesday asked Secretary of State Warren Christopher to work closely with Russian authorities to fully investigate the murder of Oklahoma businessman Paul Tatum.

Tatum was gunned down over the weekend in Moscow.

Tatum's murder, some believe, may have

been linked to his business dealings in the Russian Republic, raising concerns about the safety of other American citizens doing business there. That concern prompted Nickles to also ask Christopher what steps the U.S. government is taking to prevent further such attacks.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/07/96

EDUCATION

MORE THAN \$9 MILLION AWARDED FOR DRUG AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

■(WASHINGTON) More than \$9 million in grants for drug and violence prevention programs has been awarded to schools and communities across the nation, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley announced last week.

The awards support two year projects that tackle youth drug use and violence by:

- infusing research based knowledge about "what works" into the design, development and implementation of school based efforts to prevent drug use among youth;
- preventing students from bringing firearms and other weapons into schools;
- preventing truancy and addressing the needs of youth who are out of the education mainstream (dropouts, truants); and,
- preventing violent, aggressive, intimidating or other disruptive behavior arising from bullying, sexual harassment or other causes.

Three quarters of the 28 grantees are located in Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities.

Each application was evaluated and scored by three non-federal reviewers drawn from drug and violence prevention experts from around the country. Grants were awarded on the basis of highest average score. Funding for the grants was provided under the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act appropriations.

—U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
11/04/96

"To model our political system on the speculations of lasting tranquility, is to calculate on the weaker springs of the human character."

Alexander Hamilton
The Federalist, Jan. 5, 1788

ENVIRONMENT

EPA EXPECTS TO FUND 25 NEW BROWNFIELDS PILOTS IN 1997

■(WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency is accepting proposals for the 1997 National Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Pilots. The brownfields assessment pilots, which are each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, are designed to empower states, communities and other parties interested in economic redevelopment to work together to prevent, safely clean up and reuse brownfields.

A brownfield is a site or a portion of a site that has actual or perceived contamination, as well as an active potential for redevelopment or reuse.

Chosen pilots test redevelopment models, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness, and facilitate coordinated environmental assessments and cleanup efforts at the federal, state and local levels. These funds are used to generate interest by pulling together community groups, investors, lenders, developers and other affected parties to address the issues of clean up sites contaminated with hazardous substances and returning them to appropriate productive use.

EPA expects to select 25 additional national brownfields assessment pilots by March 1997. All applications must be postmarked no later than Jan. 13, 1997. Previously unsuccessful applicants must revise and resubmit their applications. Applications submitted before Nov. 1, will not be considered.

Copies of the application package and the solicitation notice can be obtained by calling the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
11/04/96

WASTEWISE PARTNERS ACHIEVE IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

■(WASHINGTON) Under the Environmental Protection Agency's voluntary waste reduction program, "WasteWiSe," 208 reporting companies quadrupled reported waste reduction over 1994 amounts, eliminating 344,000 tons of material through waste prevention, and recycling an additional 4.2 million tons of material. This represents a sub-

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