

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2002. An act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2394. An act to increase effective as of December 1, 1995, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

H.R. 2492. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2586. An act to provide for a temporary increase in the public debt limit, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2589. An act to extend authorities under the Middle East Peace Facilities Act of 1994 until December 31, 1995, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 1995, the enrolled bills were signed on November 10, 1995, during the adjournment of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.J. Res. 115. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 8:16 pm., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as additional conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2491) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996:

From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of title XVI of the House bill, and subtitle B of title VII of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BRYANT of Texas and Mr. TOWNS.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Phillip A. Singerman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Rear Adm. John Carter Albright, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that

they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself, Mr. MACK, and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 1409. A bill to amend section 255 of the National Housing Act to extend the mortgage insurance program for home equity conversion mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself, Mr. MACK and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 1409. A bill to amend section 255 of the National Housing Act to extend the mortgage insurance program for home equity conversion mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

THE HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGE PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT OF 1995

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I introduce The Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Act of 1995 and express my appreciation to Senators MACK and BRYAN for their cosponsorship of this important bill. This legislation would provide a 5-year extension for a much needed Federal Housing Administration [FHA] mortgage insurance program which is of great benefit to elderly homeowners.

The Home Equity Conversion Mortgage [HECM] Insurance Demonstration Program offers elderly homeowners the opportunity to borrow against the equity in their homes. This effective program is designed to assist our Nation's elderly who have substantial equity in their property but have incomes too low to meet ordinary or extraordinary living expenses. A senior citizen can receive cash through this reverse mortgage in the following four ways: A lump sum; a lifetime guaranteed monthly payment; a line of credit to be accessed by personal checks; or a combination of monthly payment and line of credit options. These mortgages are originated by FHA-approved lenders, insured by the FHA and purchased by the secondary mortgage market. The HECM program represents an ideal public/private partnership in which needy citizens are aided without cost to the Federal Government.

The HECM program allows our Nation's elderly to draw an income from their home investment. It offers seniors aged 62 and older the opportunity to support themselves without having to leave the homes they love. Without this program, elderly homeowners with insufficient incomes might be forced to

sell their homes and spend their golden years elsewhere. Since the program's inception, over 14,000 loans have been closed or are pending. The median age of program participants is 76 years old. Borrowers are generally low-income and dependent on Social Security benefits.

The Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Insurance Demonstration Program was authorized by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987. The Federal Housing Administration's authority to insure reverse mortgages lapsed on October 1 of this year. The legislation which I am introducing today would reauthorize this successful program and allow it to continue for an additional 5 years, until September 30, 2000. In addition, it would broaden the definition to include one- to four-family homes in which the owner resides and expand insurance authority to cover 50,000 reverse mortgages.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1409

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF FHA MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGES.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—The first sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-20(g)) is amended by striking "September 30, 1995" and inserting "September 30, 2000".

(b) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF MORTGAGES.—The second sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-20(g)) is amended by striking "25,000" and inserting "50,000".

(c) ELIGIBLE MORTGAGES.—Section 255(d)(3) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-20(d)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) be secured by a dwelling that is designed principally for a 1- to 4-family residence in which the mortgagor occupies 1 of the units;"•

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 256

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish procedures for determining the status of certain missing members of the Armed Forces and certain civilians, and for other purposes.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 684, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for programs of research regarding Parkinson's disease, and for other purposes.

S. 1220

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1220, a bill to provide that Members of Congress shall not be paid during Federal Government shutdowns.

S. 1228

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1228, a bill to impose sanctions on foreign persons exporting petroleum products, natural gas, or related technology to Iran.

S. 1247

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1247, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for contributions to a medical savings account by any individual who is covered under a catastrophic coverage health plan.

S. 1289

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1289, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the use of private contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 1342

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1342, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make loans to refinance loans made to veterans under the Native American Veterans Direct Loan Program.

S. 1346

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1346, a bill to require the periodic review of Federal regulations.

S. 1396

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the names of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS], the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], and the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. KASSEBAUM] were added as cosponsors of S. 1396, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the regulation of surface transportation.

NOTICE OF JOINT HEARING

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that the time of the hearing scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the House Committee on Resources and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has been changed.

The hearing will take place Thursday, November 16, 1995, at 10:30 a.m., instead of 11 a.m., in room 1324 of the Longworth House Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the Alaska Natives Commission's report to Congress, transmitted in May 1994, on the status of Alaska's Natives.

Those wishing to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Brian Malnak at (202) 224-8119 or Judy Brown at (202) 224-7556.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEW ON-LINE CASINOS MAY THWART U.S. LAWS

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask that the following article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal May 10, 1995]
NEW ON-LINE CASINOS MAY THWART U.S.

LAWS

(By William M. Bulkeley)

Two companies are setting up on-line betting emporiums in Caribbean countries to skirt U.S. laws that bar interstate gambling from home.

The cyberspace casinos, which will be available on the internet, won't have Paul Anka, scantily clad showgirls or cigar smoke. But they will offer a chance to win or lose money from the comfort of the bettor's own keyboard, using credit cards or money predeposited with the house.

The Justice Department says cyberspace casinos are illegal. But the companies' offshore venues may protect them. And authorities will have a tough time detecting who's actually betting because many other people will be playing the same games for free.

Internet gambling could be immensely popular. "If regulatory obstacles were put aside, gambling would be huge on the Internet," says Adam Schoenfeld, an analyst with Jupiter Communications, a New York market researcher. Jason Ader, an analyst with Smith Barney, says legalized on-line betting could be a \$10 billion-a-year industry.

Antigambling activists fear that addicted gamblers and children using credit cards will bankrupt themselves from their PCs. Rachel Volberg, president of Gemini Research. Roaring Spring, Pa., who studies problem gambling, says the young, affluent males who populate the Internet are people "we know from research are probably most likely to develop difficulties related to gambling."

Nonetheless, Warren B. Eugene, a 34-year-old Canadian, says he will open the Internet Online Offshore Electronic Casino this month using computers in the tax haven of the Turks and Caicos islands, Mr. Eugene, who says his business experience is in video games, already has a page on the Internet's World Wide Web where bettors can play blackjack with play money. "This can be a trillion-dollar world-wide business," he says.

Mr. Eugene predicts there will someday be a virtual Strip with dozens of different casinos offering different games, different odds and varying amenities such as direct deposit of winnings in offshore accounts and the acceptance of virtual checks. He's offering to sell the casino software he has developed to other would-be gambling tycoons for \$250,000 and a 15% cut of the profits.

Meanwhile, Kerry Rogers, a 38-year-old Las Vegas computer expert, is working on

WagerNet, a sports betting service that plans to locate its computers in Belize. WagerNet is awaiting enabling legislation there, but Mr. Rogers is optimistic. "This is a way for a country to make revenues off of gambling," he says. "Imagine the millions of dollars bet world-wide on the WorldCup" in soccer.

WagerNet is designed as a kind of gambler's Nasdaq, matching people who bet on sporting events rather than setting a line and taking bets. A bettor, who must deposit \$1,000, will put a proposition on the computer, and other bettors can take the bet if they want. WagerNet will charge a 2.5% transaction fee (far less than the 10% vigorish that Mr. Rogers says current sports books get), and it may bar U.S. gamblers if the legal risk is too great.

The planned betting parlors face huge obstacles in gaining consumer confidence. After all, if a bettor wins big, the cyberspace casino may disappear. And bettors will have little assurance that unregulated electronic roulette wheels aren't rigged.

U.S. laws prohibit people in the gambling business from transmitting by wire any wager information "in interstate or foreign commerce. "Violations are punishable by two years in prison and possible forfeiture of assets under organized crime statutes. Some states, such as California, have laws prohibiting individuals from placing bets by wire.

Mr. Eugene says that as Canadian citizen whose business is in a foreign country, he isn't subject to U.S. laws, even if his biggest market turns out to be U.S. gamblers. After he starts the real casino, he promises to keep taking play-money bets so that U.S. wire-tappers won't be able to tell which players are actually gambling.

I. Nelson Rose, a gambling law expert and law professor at Whittier School of Law in Los Angeles, says he gets several calls a week from people investigating the legal status of on-line gambling. He says Mr. Eugene's theory may be right: "If you are a foreign national sitting in a foreign country, there's a question whether the U.S. law would apply to you." He adds that "there may be a way to do it on an Indian reservation" as well.

Mr. Eugene styles himself as the Bugsy Siegel of cyberspace, harking back to the mobster who helped build Las Vegas into a gambling mecca. And his Electronic Casino is like the early Las Vegas casinos—a big flashy sign fronting a tiny drab facility. The casino's main screen, known as a home page in Internet parlance, is an enticing graphic display of a pirate chest full of booty. For now, only the blackjack game is operating.

Mr. Eugene says he is negotiating with an accounting firm to certify the legitimacy of his games and his bankroll. He says he has a \$1.5 million line of credit with a bank in St. Maarten, a Dutch island in the Caribbean, but he declines to name the bank. Mr. Eugene adds that casino authorities in St. Maarten "have the right to review our books. It's a new area. They said 'until you violate it, we like you. We trust you.'"

If nothing else, Mr. Eugene's Internet Casino plan shows how easily small operators can establish themselves in cyberspace. After he issued a news release in March, he received publicity from newspapers and TV stations in the U.S., England and Canada. "I became a multinational overnight," he says. Already, he adds, some 2,000 people have preregistered their interest in gambling at the Internet Casino.

Mr. Eugene says players will be able to wire funds to individual offshore bank accounts that the casino will establish or send cash through such companies as First Virtual Holdings Inc., of Arlington, Va., one of several companies trying to set up a secure payment system for the Internet.