

EC-1936. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on abnormal occurrences for the period July 1 through September 30, 1995; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1937. A communication from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Safety Research Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1938. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on a demonstration project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1939. A communication from the Chairman of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1940. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the 20-year Tanker Size/Capacity Trend Analysis study; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1941. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the final report on the Information, Counseling and Assistance [ICA] Grants Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1942. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Drug Utilization Review [DUR] Demonstration projects for 1995; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1943. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the December 1995 issue of the Treasury Bulletin; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1944. A communication from the Director of the Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1995 annual report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1945. A communication from the Chairman of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on health care spending; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1946. A communication from the Chairman of the International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on trade between the United States and China for the period July 1 through September 30, 1995; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1947. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Agency For International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1948. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Presidential Determination relative to Serbia and Montenegro; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1949. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1950. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1951. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 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. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. JOHNSTON): S. 1596. A bill to direct a property conveyance in the State of California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 1597. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to discourage American businesses from moving jobs overseas and to encourage the creation of new jobs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GLENN:

S. 1598. A bill to provide that professional sports teams relocating to different communities shall lose trademark protection with respect to team names, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 1599. A bill for the relief of Tarek Elagamy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. MACK):

S. 1600. A bill to establish limitations on health plans with respect to genetic information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. GLENN, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 1601. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the deadline for and clarify the contents of the Great Lakes health research report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### STATEMENT ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. JOHNSTON):

S. 1596. A bill to direct a property conveyance in the State of California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

##### THE WARD VALLEY LAND TRANSFER ACT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation with my colleague, Senator JOHNSTON, directing a land conveyance for the purpose of siting a low level radioactive waste facility at Ward Valley, CA. This measure is virtually identical to language the Senate previously agreed to in the reconciliation bill conference report, with the exception that we have added an additional condition that California must provide its written commitment to carry out environmental monitoring and protection measures based on recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences, subject to Federal oversight by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mr. President, the Congress—in 1980 and again in 1985—gave States the responsibility for low level radioactive waste disposal. After an 8 year licensing process costing more than \$45 mil-

lion, the State of California awarded a license for a waste disposal site at Ward Valley, in the Mojave Desert. California is the host State for the Southwestern low level radioactive waste compact which includes the States of Arizona, North Dakota, South Dakota, and California.

The Ward Valley site has withstood the scrutiny of two environmental impact statements, two biological opinions under the Endangered Species Act, and a variety of court challenges. Ward Valley was given a clean bill of health by the National Academy of Sciences in a special report issued in May 1995. No low level radioactive site has received greater scrutiny than this one. It's a safe site, and anyone who reviews the facts with the tools of science rather than the rhetoric of emotion comes to that conclusion.

With the license issued, the court challenges exhausted, and the science settled, all that remains is a simple, administrative land sale from the Bureau of Land Management to the State of California. This is the kind of routine conveyance that would normally be handled at a BLM field office. But the Secretary of the Interior has intervened, and effectively kept the land sale from proceeding for more than 2 years by ordering a supplemental EIS, and later, a review by the National Academy of Sciences. Both the supplemental EIS and the Academy review turned out to be highly favorable to the Ward Valley site, and at the conclusion of each we have hoped that any remaining excuse for further delay would evaporate. Unfortunately, Ward Valley opponents hope to delay this forever, suggesting at each juncture a new study, a new hurdle, a new obstacle.

The latest hurdle was erected on February 15, when Interior Deputy Secretary John Garamendi announced yet another round of follow up studies to include tritium tests. California is not opposed to tritium tests, and the State is willing to conduct them. The problem, Mr. President, is that Interior wants the tests concluded prior to the land transfer. The National Academy of Sciences did not say this was necessary or desirable. In fact, the Academy suggests ongoing testing should be undertaken in conjunction with the operation of the facility. The Interior Department's actions, in my opinion, are merely a tactic to delay the commencement of operations at Ward Valley until after the next election.

If we do nothing, Mr. President, and allow this land conveyance to be delayed, I can guarantee that there will be some new obstacle erected after the tritium tests are complete. As the National Academy of Sciences pointed out, tritium tests are difficult and often inconclusive. That's why they should not be rushed, they should not precede the conveyance, they should continue along with all of the other monitoring and protection measures that will be undertaken during the