

EC-2301. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2302. A communication from the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Chief Financial Officers Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2303. A communication from the U.S. Commissioner of the Delaware River Basin Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2304. A communication from the U.S. Commissioner of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2305. A communication from the Executive Director of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2306. A communication from the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2307. A communication from the Chair of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2308. A communication from the Employee Benefits Manager of the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual reports of federal pension plans for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2309. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Chief Financial Officers Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2310. A communication from the Office of Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2311. A communication from the Director of the Institute of Museum Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2312. A communication from the Executive Director of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2313. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of General Accounting Office reports and testimony for February 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2314. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2315. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of proposed regulations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2316. A communication from the Director of Audit Oversight and Liaison, General

Accounting Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the audit of the U.S. Government Printing Office's financial statements for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2317. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on direct spending or receipts legislation within five days of enactment; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, to the Committee on the Budget, and to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

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. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1697. A bill to amend the independent counsel statute to require that an individual appointed to be an independent counsel must agree to suspend any outside legal work or affiliation with a law firm until the individual's service as independent counsel is complete; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 1698. A bill entitled the "Health Insurance Reform Act of 1996"; read the first time.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1699. A bill to establish the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REID, and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 1700. A bill to reduce interstate street gang and organized crime activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PELL:

S. 1701. A bill to end the use of steel jaw leghold traps on animals in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. Res. 250. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding tactile currency for the blind and visually impaired; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LOTT:

S. Con. Res. 54. A concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of the bill S. 735, to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

S. Con. Res. 55. A concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of the bill S. 735, to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. HELMS, Mr. PELL, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Con. Res. 56. A concurrent resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1697. A bill to amend the independent counsel statute to require that an individual appointed to be an independent counsel must agree to suspend any outside legal work or affiliation with a law firm until the individual's service as independent counsel is complete; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL AMENDMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation on behalf of the distinguished Minority leader and myself that amends the independent counsel statute.

In my opinion recent events have made clear that Congress should review the statute providing for the appointment of an independent counsel. The specific problem that concerns me, and which my bill will address, is the perception that an independent counsel who continues to practice law and represent clients while serving as independent counsel opens himself or herself to charges of conflict of interest resulting from continued representation of private clients.

The bill I am introducing today amends the independent counsel statute to eliminate the possibility that such a conflict of interest will arise by requiring that, upon assuming the duties of independent counsel, an attorney refrain from representing clients until her duties as independent counsel have been completed. Additionally, my bill requires that the independent counsel not receive any compensation for affiliating with or being employed by an entity that provides professional legal services during the time of their service as independent counsel.

This bill would not apply to the current independent counsel investigating the Whitewater matter. It would only apply to independent counsels appointed after the effective date of this legislation.

Mr. President, as my friend and colleague from Arkansas, Senator PRYOR pointed out yesterday, the Washington Post reported that the current independent counsel, Mr. Starr, has retained the services of Sam Dash, former chief counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee and a noted scholar on issues relating to legal ethics to advise Mr. Starr on matters stemming from his continued affiliation with his law firm and continued representation of clients.

Setting aside for a moment the fact that Mr. Starr has seen fit to retain Mr. Dash on a part-time basis at a cost to the taxpayers of over \$166,000, it strikes many as a little odd, Mr. President, that an independent counsel has for the first time hired someone to advise him on what is ethical and what is not. It is my understanding from published reports in the Washington Post, the New Yorker, and other sources,