

EC-3056. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Consumer Information Order—Postponement of Assessments," (FV-96-702) received on June 18, 1996; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3057. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Cranberries Grown in States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Long Island in the State of New York," (FV-96-929-1) received on June 18, 1996; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3058. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Viruses, Serums and Toxins and Analogous Products; Master Labels," received on June 17, 1996; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3059. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on foreign economic collection and industrial espionage; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-3060. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Commerce Trade and Investment Programs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3061. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of determination and findings relative to the authority to award a contract; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3062. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of determination and findings relative to the authority to award a contract; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3063. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the major rule entitled "The Withdrawal of Employer-Employee and Computer Loan Origination Systems Exemptions," received on June 13, 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3064. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules including a rule entitled "Section 8 Tenant-Based Programs," received on June 11, 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3065. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3066. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, drafts of proposed legislation entitled "The FHA Multifamily Housing Reform Act of 1996" and "The Housing Enforcement Act of 1996"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3067. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The FHA Single Family Housing Reform Act of 1996"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3068. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Community Development Block Grant Performance Fund and HOME Performance Fund Act of 1996"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3069. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Homeless Assistance Performance Fund Act of 1996"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3070. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Expanding Housing Choices for HUD-Assisted Families"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3071. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "The Assessment of the Comprehensive Grant Program"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3072. A communication from the Acting Director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to Presidential Determination 96-27; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3073. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sixth special impoundment message for fiscal year 1996; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3074. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals dated June 11, 1996; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to the Committee on Armed Services, to the Committee on Finance, to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3075. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Legislative Liaison (Programs and Legislative Division), Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a cost comparison study relative to the Base Operating Support at all Air Force Bases; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3076. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Legislative Liaison (Programs and Legislative Division), Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a multi-function cost comparison study relative to training equipment maintenance and the precision measurement laboratory at Kessler Air Force Base, MS; to the Committee on Armed Services.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-600. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Georgia; to the Committee on Finance.

"SENATE RESOLUTION 288

"Whereas, it is estimated 37 million Americans are without health insurance, many

while between jobs, and more are underinsured because of the effects of rising health care costs and spending. The costs of health care are escalating, forcing employers to trim the level and availability of health care benefits to their employees; and

"Whereas, overutilization of health care services for relatively small claims is one of the most significant causes of health care cost and spending increases. Currently, more than two-thirds of all insurance claims for medical spending are less than \$3,000.00 per family per year in this country; and

"Whereas, in response to the runaway cost increases on health care spending in this country, the private sector has developed the concept of medical savings accounts. This initiative is designed to ensure health insurance availability for Americans. It is predicated on providing incentives to eliminate unnecessary medical treatment and encourage competition in seeking health care; and

"Whereas, through employer-funded medical savings account arrangements and reduced cost qualified higher deductible insurance policies, millions of Americans could insure themselves for both routine and major medical services. Under the concept of medical savings accounts, an employer currently providing employee health care benefits would purchase instead a low-cost, high deductible major medical policy on each employee. The employer may then set aside the saving premium differential in a medical savings account arrangement. The participating employees would use the money in the account to pay their medical care expenses up to the deductible. However, any account money unspent by the participating employees in a plan year would then belong to the employees to save, spend on medical care, or use otherwise. This would be a strong incentive for people not to abuse health expenditures and to institute "cost-shopping" for medical care services; and

"Whereas, by setting aside money for employees to spend on health care, employees could change jobs and use the money they had so far earned to buy interim health insurance or to cover health care expenses thereby eliminating the problems of uninsured between jobs and helping to reduce "job-lock"; and

"Whereas, by making medical care decisions the employee's prerogative, individual policyholders have a strong stake in reducing costs. This simple financial mechanism will expand health insurance options to others who presently have no insurance. Most importantly, this move to decrease health care cost burdens in this country would require no new federal bureaucracy and would be revenue neutral to employers; Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this body encourage the Congress of the United States to enact legislation swiftly and in good faith to enable Americans to establish medical savings accounts; be it further

"Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and all members of the Georgia congressional delegation."

POM-601. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on Finance.

"HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 227

"Whereas, tax-exempt industrial development bonds play a critical role in promoting economic development in the Commonwealth; and

"Whereas, these bonds are used by local industrial development authorities and corporations to create jobs and bring investment to the Commonwealth; and

"Whereas, in 1995, these bonds, amounting to \$134 million, played a role in creating 2,500 jobs; and

"Whereas, the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority, which facilitates the administration of the industrial development bond program for the Commonwealth, finds that federal restrictions on the issuance of these bonds hinders business development; and

"Whereas, particularly restrictive is the \$10 million cap and the limitation that bond proceeds cannot be used to finance associated office and warehouse space that businesses expanding in or relocating to Virginia need; and

"Whereas, Congressman Phil English has introduced H.R. 2617 to the 104th Congress to increase the cap to \$20 million and to remove many of the unnecessary restrictions on the use of industrial development bonds; and

"Whereas, the Joint Subcommittee Studying Capital Access and Business Financing, created pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 591 (1995) and Senate Joint Resolution No. 370 (1995), has expressed its support for H.R. 2617; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring. That the Congress of the United States be urged to pass legislation providing states and localities with additional flexibility relating to the issuance of tax-exempt industrial development bonds to promote economic development; and, be it

Resolved further, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the Virginia Liaison Office, and to each member of the Virginia Congressional Delegation in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia."

POM-602. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

"ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 23

"Whereas, Since illegally coming to power in 1959, the government of Fidel Castro has constantly demonstrated a consistent disregard for internationally adopted standards of human rights and domestic values; and

"Whereas, The Cuban people have demonstrated their desire for freedom and democracy and their opposition to the Castro government by risking their lives by organizing demonstrations in opposition to Castro's totalitarian regime; and

"Whereas, Cubans regardless of their age, gender and medical conditions, are presently undertaking the hazardous and perilous 90 mile journey of freedom to the United States; and

"Whereas, Fidel Castro is attempting to manipulate this exodus of innocent people to win concessions from an American nation that has grown increasingly impatient and intolerant of his regime; and

"Whereas, The Castro regime has historically placed citizens of the United States in danger by maintaining a government dominated by the military and proliferating its offensive military capacity 90 miles from this nation's shores; and

"Whereas, In response to Castro's continued ruthless leadership, many Americans, regardless of ethnic or national background, feel strongly that the United States needs to isolate Castro's Cuba from the rest of the democratic world; and

"Whereas, The citizens of New Jersey fully support the federal "Cuban Democracy Act

of 1992" and the trade embargo currently imposed by the government of the United States against the Cuban government; and

"Whereas, While additional sanctions recently imposed by President Clinton are having a dramatic impact on the ability of Castro to continue his forced rule over the Cuban people, a full quarantine of Cuba will further isolate the Castro government from the rest of the world, and thus hasten its movement towards democratic elections; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

"1. The President of the United States is memorialized to assist the people of Cuba by implementing a full quarantine of Cuba until such time that the authoritarian regime of Fidel Castro gives way to a democratically elected government.

"2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and every member of Congress elected from this State."

POM-603. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

"SENATE RESOLUTION 2035

"Whereas, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico enjoys a close relationship with the province of Taiwan, Republic of China, and

"Whereas, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen founded the Republic of China in Taiwan, which is at present the fourteenth largest commercial country, the twentieth in gross national product and the twenty-fifth in gross per capita income, and

"Whereas, the population of the Republic of China in Taiwan is greater than the population of two thirds of the members of the United Nations Organizations, and

"Whereas, the Republic of China in Taiwan has consistently shown its support to democracy and world peace, its concern for regional and international development, and its interest in programs of assistance to its global fellow neighbors, and

"Whereas, the establishment of an ad hoc committee for the study and analysis of the special situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international community, has been proposed to the United Nations Organization in order to find a fair and viable solution to its participation within the frame of the United Nations Organization, and

"Whereas, the people of the Republic of China in Taiwan deserve appropriate recognition and credit for their dynamic participation in the international community, and

"Whereas, the Republic of China in Taiwan should be granted full membership in the United Nations Organization and its affiliated organizations in the same manner as other divided nations such as South Korea and the former East and West Germany, which have been granted full participation, and

"Whereas, considering that our Puerto Rican people lack the power to influence directly the United States of America's foreign policy which applies to Puerto Rico, through a vote for the president and representation entitled to vote, it is essential for this High Body to state its feelings on this matter; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of Puerto Rico:

"SECTION 1.—The President and the Congress of the United States of America are hereby requested to give their utmost consideration to render active support to the

Republic of China in Taiwan as an important commercial nation, and as a former ally, in order to assist in achieving the full participation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international community in general, and in the United Nations Organization in particular.

"SECTION 2.—A copy of this Resolution, translated into the English language, shall be remitted to the President, to the Congress of the United States of America and to the Representative of the Republic of China in Taiwan.

"SECTION 3.—This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval."

POM-604. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Government Affairs.

"SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1001

"Whereas, the federal government was established by the states through the ratification of the Constitution of the United States; and

"Whereas, the federal government was granted carefully limited powers under the Constitution of the United States and the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that "[t]he powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people"; and

"Whereas, the Constitution of the United States established a system in which the states ceded only certain powers to the federal government; and

"Whereas, the framers recognized that separation of powers is essential and ensured that the rights of the people would be protected by establishing checks and balances not only between the branches of the federal government but also between the federal government and state governments; and

"Whereas, the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the federal government have by many actions usurped powers reserved by the Constitution of the United States to the states and to the people; and

"Whereas, by the combined actions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the federal government, the relationship between the federal government and state governments established by the Constitution of the United States has been severely unbalanced; and

"Whereas, the federal judiciary, itself a branch of the federal government, has failed to stop many of these federal excesses; and

"Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority* (469 U.S. 528 (1985)), noted that the interests of states are best protected by their representation in Congress; and

"Whereas, to restore the balance of power between the federal government and state governments intended by the framers of the Constitution of the United States, the federal government must carefully consider, and be accountable for, the constitutional boundaries of its jurisdiction to protect the states and the people from the unwarranted assumption of power by the federal government.

"Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

"1. That the One Hundred Fourth Congress of the United States enact legislation requiring the Congress of the United States to specify the section of the Constitution of the United States that grants Congress the authority to enact the proposed section of law. The Arizona Legislature supports the inclusion in such legislation:

"(a) That Congress be required to state explicitly the extent to which the proposed section of law preempts any state, local or tribal law, and if so, an explanation of the reasons for such preemption.

"(b) That if Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, Constitution of the United States, is identified as the Constitutional provision granting authority to Congress for its proposed section of law, Congress report a list of factual findings establishing a substantial nexus between the regulatory effect of the proposed section of law and interstate commerce.

"2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit certified copies of this Memorial to each Member of the Senate of the United States and the House of Representatives of the United States and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of each state legislature in the United States."

POM-605. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86

"Whereas, the number of unfunded federal mandates imposed upon the states by the United States Congress has alarmingly increased in recent years; and

"Whereas, this continuing imposition places Hawaii and her sister states in the precarious position of either attempting to fund the federal requirements with diminishing amounts of available revenue or jeopardizing eligibility for certain federal funds; and

"Whereas, the United States Congress should try to understand the difficult posture in which the states have been cast and the urgent necessity of the states to receive monetary assistance for these mandates or relief from the enforcement of these unfunded decrees; and

"Whereas, the members of this Legislature desire to convey to the United States Congress the seriousness of this problem so that the Congress may be completely cognizant of the effect the actions of the federal government have at the state legislative level and may be more sensitive to the difficulties unfunded federal mandates create; now, therefore be it,

"Resolved by the Senate of the Eighteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1996, the House of Representatives concurring, That the United States Congress is respectfully requested not to enact federal legislative mandates on states without necessary funding; and be it further

"Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation."

POM-606. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

"SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 63

"Whereas, the number of unfunded federal mandates imposed upon the states by the United States Congress has alarmingly increased in recent years; and

"Whereas, this continuing imposition places Hawaii and her sister states in the precarious position of either attempting to fund the federal requirements with diminishing amounts of available revenue or jeopardizing eligibility for certain federal funds; and

"Whereas, the United States Congress should try to understand the difficult posture in which the states have been cast and the urgent necessity of the states to receive monetary assistance for these mandates or relief from the enforcement of these unfunded decrees; and

"Whereas, the members of this Legislature desire to convey to the United States Congress the seriousness of this problem so that the Congress may be completely cognizant of the effect the actions of the federal government have at the state legislative level and may be more sensitive to the difficulties unfunded federal mandates create; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate of the Eighteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1996, That the United States Congress is respectfully requested not to enact federal legislative mandates on states without necessary funding; and be it further

"Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation."

POM-607. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

"HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

"Whereas, Maxfield Parrish was a citizen of New Hampshire for 68 years; and

"Whereas, he was one of the foremost American artist/illustrators of the early 20th century; and

"Whereas, Maxfield Parrish painted 2 posters for the state of New Hampshire; and

"Whereas, through his art, Maxfield Parrish continued to expose millions to the beauties of the New Hampshire landscape; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

"That the New Hampshire legislature requests that the United States Postal Service issue a postage stamp honoring Maxfield Parrish; and

"That copies of this resolution be sent by the house clerk to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the United States Postmaster General and New Hampshire's Congressional delegation."

POM-608. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

"HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 179

"Whereas, employees of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions may defer compensation to a date later in life when tax rates might be more advantageous; and

"Whereas, this deferred income remains the "property" of the employer as required by federal Internal Revenue Service regulations and technically has not been distributed to the employee; and

"Whereas, because the deferred compensation remains in the hands of the employer, there is a possibility that the employer can access deferred compensation funds should the employer find itself in need of revenue for any purpose; and

"Whereas, language contained in federal legislation would have required that all assets and income in state and local government deferred compensation plans be held in trust for the exclusive benefit of participants and their parties; and

"Whereas, current law prevents states from enacting similar requirements without compromising the tax advantages of deferred compensation plans; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Congress of the United States be urged to enact legislation to provide that public employees' deferred compensation funds may be used for no other

purpose than to return deferred compensation assets and income to the plan's participants and their beneficiaries. The Congress is urged to provide that all assets and earnings of deferred compensation plans for state and local government employees be held in trust for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries; and, be it

"Resolved further, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the Virginia Liaison Office, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia on this issue."

POM-609. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5046

"Whereas, More than 600,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, including activated units of the Ready Reserve and National Guard, were deployed to the Persian Gulf region in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait; and

"Whereas, United States service personnel were exposed not only to the hazards of war, but to an unknown variety of potential health hazards, including exposure to smoke from oil well fires, depleted uranium and infectious biological weapons; and

"Whereas, More than 55,000 individuals who served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm have reported wide-ranging medical problems that began during service, or shortly after their return from the Persian Gulf, a significant number of which have not been accurately diagnosed or treated; and

"Whereas, There is evidence that family members of Gulf War veterans are experiencing health problems similar in nature to those of the veterans, including abnormal numbers of birth defects in children conceived by Gulf War veterans; and

"Whereas, In November 1994, Congress enacted the Persian Gulf War Veterans' Act, authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to compensate any Persian Gulf War veteran suffering from a chronic disability resulting from undiagnosed illnesses that occurred either during active duty or within a certain period following service in the Persian Gulf War; and

"Whereas, The Department of Defense has been conducting research into the causes of symptoms that have collectively come to be called "Gulf War Syndrome" for over three years and during that time, the Department has failed to make any substantive scientific progress in determining the causes, effects, and transmissibility of, or treating this disabling and sometimes fatal syndrome: Now, therefore,

"Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein, That we memorialize the President and the United States Congress to take action to identify, locate and provide funds for research and treatment of Gulf War related illnesses among Persian Gulf War Veterans, and, to that end, to work jointly with private research facilities; and be it further

"Resolved, That we urge the President and the Congress of the United States, and the Department of Defense to review the necessity for secrecy of all classified information bearing on the detrimental health effects that the Gulf War Veterans and their families are experiencing, and to make any previously classified material available for publication; and be it further

"Resolved, That we urge the President and the Congress of the United States to place a moratorium on the donation of blood, blood products and organs by veterans of the Gulf War until a determination regarding the communicability of these illnesses has been made; and be it further

"Resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation, to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, to the Secretary of Defense and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Center for Disease Control)."

POM-610. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative of the State of Oklahoma; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

"Whereas, Oklahoma's atomic veterans showed steadfast dedication and undisputed loyalty to their country and made intolerable sacrifices in service to their country; and

"Whereas, these atomic veterans gave their all during the terribly hot atomic age to keep our country strong and free; and

"Whereas, these atomic veterans were unknowingly placed in the line of fire, after being assured that they faced no harm, and were subjected to an ungodly bombardment of ionizing radiation; and

"Whereas, the radiation to which they were exposed is now and will continue eating away at their bodies every second of every day for the rest of their lives with no hope of cessation or cure; and

"Whereas, because their wounds were not of the conventional type and were not caused by the enemy but by the United States Government, the atomic veterans did not receive service-connected medical and disability benefits and did not receive a medal such as the Purple Heart; and

"Whereas, many atomic veterans have already died and others will die a horrible and painful death; now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the 2nd session of the 45th Oklahoma Legislature, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

"That atomic veterans be recognized by the federal government.

"That the United States Senators and Representatives from Oklahoma propose or support legislation granting service-connected medical and disability benefits to all atomic veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation and propose or support legislation issuing a medal to atomic veterans to express the gratitude of the people and government of the United States for the dedication and sacrifices of these veterans.

"That copies of this resolution be distributed to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Chairs of the United States House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, and each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

"Adopted by the Senate the 21st day of May, 1996."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 253. A bill to repeal certain prohibitions against political recommendations relating

to Federal employment, to reenact certain provisions relating to recommendations by Members of Congress, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-282).

S. 1577. A bill to authorize appropriations for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 (Rept. No. 104-283).

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

H.R. 2739. A bill to provide for a representational allowance for Members of the House of Representatives, to make technical and conforming changes to sundry provisions of law in consequence of administrative reforms in the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1888. An original bill to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 1996.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Vicky A. Bailey, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2001.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that she be confirmed, subject to the nominee's 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. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 1885. A bill to limit the liability of certain nonprofit organizations that are providers of prosthetic devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 1886. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of educational grants by private foundations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. HEFLIN):

S. 1887. A bill to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1888. An original bill to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 1996; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

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

S. 1889. A bill to authorize the exchange of certain lands conveyed to the Kenai Native Association pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, to make adjustments to the National Wilderness System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. BYRD, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. FRIST, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SIMON, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. REID, Mr. DODD, Mr. GLENN, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BRADLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1890. A bill to increase Federal protection against arson and other destruction of places of religious worship; read twice, and placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1891. A bill to establish sources of funding for certain transportation infrastructure projects in the vicinity of the border between the United States and Mexico that are necessary to accommodate increased traffic resulting from the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, including construction of new Federal border crossing facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 1892. A bill to reward States for collecting medicaid funds expended on tobacco-related illnesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1893. A bill to provide for the settlement of issues and claims related to the trust lands of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 1885. A bill to limit the liability of certain nonprofit organizations that are providers of prosthetic devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE PROSTHETIC LIMB ACCESS ACT OF 1996

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, a few years ago I became exposed to a problem that exists in the lives of thousands of Americans. It happened when one of my closet friends in Oklahoma, Buddy Martin; lost both of his legs.

He was one of the fortunate ones who had the resources to purchase artificial limbs, and is able to live today a much more normal life than one could imagine.

It is because of this exposure that I rise today to introduce a bill to provide relief to thousands of Americans. Everyday far too many Americans are unable to live full and productive lives like Buddy Martin because they cannot afford adequate prosthetic care. There are over 250,000 Americans who cannot afford adequate prosthetic care. While the government provides assistance through Medicare and other programs they can not meet all of the needs, and they don't have to. The private sector