

and throughout the world. President Clinton himself recently stated that he hopes the Arab leaders who attend this summit will "give Mr. Netanyahu an opportunity to constitute his government and set a policy and not presume that we can't pursue peace."

Under these circumstances, Mr. President, I know that it is the hope of my colleagues here, and people all across America that the governments attending the summit in Cairo, and governments throughout the Middle East, reaffirm their commitment to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

I believe, too, that it will be particularly important that these leaders express their willingness to work with the democratically elected government of Israel to pursue a meaningful peace.

Mr. President, through great courage on all sides, we've made significant strides toward peace. We hope and pray that we continue down that path.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, June 20, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,108,536,115,006.17.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,268.73 as his or her share of that debt.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:13 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3662. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second time by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3662. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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-611. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Toledo, Ohio, relative to the minimum wage; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

POM-612. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Delaware; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

"Whereas improving patient access to quality health care is a paramount national goal; and

"Whereas the key to improved health care, especially for persons with serious unmet medical needs, is the rapid approval of safe and effective new drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and

"Whereas minimizing the delay between discovery and eventual approval of a new drug, biological product, or medical device derived from research conducted by innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies could improve the lives of millions of Americans; and

"Whereas current limitations on the dissemination of information about pharmaceutical products reduce the availability of information to physicians, other health care professionals, and patients, and unfairly limit the right of free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

"Whereas the current rules and practices governing the review of new drugs, biological products, and medical devices by the United States Food and Drug Administration can delay approvals and are unnecessarily expensive; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the 138th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the Senate concurring therein, That the State Legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to address this important issue by enacting comprehensive legislation to facilitate the rapid review and approval of innovative new drugs, biological products, and medical devices, without compromising patient safety or product effectiveness; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and President of the United States Senate, and to each member of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives."

POM-613. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 259

"Whereas, household energy costs for heating, cooling, electricity, and other needs account for a sizable portion of living expenses for low-income families; and

"Whereas, in 1980, to assist low-income families with energy needs, Congress established the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as part of the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980; and

"Whereas, LIHEAP provides block grants to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Indian Tribal organizations to assist eligible households in meeting the costs of home energy; and

"Whereas, under the program, states make payments directly to eligible households or to home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households, and payments may be provided in cash, fuel, prepaid utility bills, or as vouchers, stamps, or coupons that may be used in exchange for energy supplies; and

"Whereas, in addition to providing assistance for heating and cooling needs, eligible

LIHEAP households may also receive funds for weather-related and supply shortage emergencies; and

"Whereas, LIHEAP recipients are among the poorest households in America, with nearly three-fifths having an annual income of less than \$6,000; and

"Whereas, while critical, LIHEAP benefits only cover about 30 percent of the energy costs of LIHEAP recipients; and

"Whereas, families whose utilities are disconnected because they cannot pay their bills face such risks as food spoilage, lack of sanitation, or eviction, that can lead to hopelessness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1996, the Senate concurring, That Congress is urged to continue the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; 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 Hawaii's Congressional Delegation."

POM-614. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Iowa; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

"Whereas, improving patient access to quality health care is a paramount national goal; and

"Whereas, the key to improved health care in many cases and especially for individuals with serious unmet medical needs, is the rapid development and approval of safe and effective drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and

"Whereas, minimizing the delay between discovery and eventual approval of a new drug, biological product, or medical device derived from research conducted by innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies could improve the lives of millions of individuals; and

"Whereas, current limitations on the dissemination of information about pharmaceutical products reduce the availability of information to health care professionals and patients, and may be viewed as interfering with the right of free speech guaranteed by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

"Whereas, the current regulations and practices governing the review of new drugs, biological products, and medical devices by the United States Food and Drug Administration may delay approval and are unnecessarily expensive: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, That the Iowa General Assembly respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to address this important issue by enacting comprehensive legislation to facilitate the rapid review and approval of innovative drugs, biological products, and medical devices, without compromising patient safety or product effectiveness; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and to each member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives."

POM-615. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.