

Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice 96-38," received on July 29, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3614. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the Treasury Bulletin for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3615. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Officer, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule concerning ammunition feeding devices (RIN1512-AB35), received on July 26, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1996" (Rept. No. 104-347).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 2464. A bill to amend Public Law 103-93 to provide additional lands within the State of Utah for the Goshute Indian Reservation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-348).

S. 199. A bill to repeal certain provisions of law relating to trading with Indians (Rept. No. 104-349).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1952. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

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

Nils J. Diaz, of Florida, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2001.

Edward McGaffigan, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2000.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. BREAUX:

S. 2009. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GREGG, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. FAIRCLOTH):

S. 2010. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMPSON (by request):

S. 2011. A bill to ensure that appropriated funds are not used for operation of golf courses on real property controlled by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 2012. A bill to redesignate the title of the National Cemetery System and the position of the Director of the National Cemetery System; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ASHCROFT, and Mr. LOTT):

S. 2013. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for continuing appropriations in the absence of regular appropriations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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

S. 2014. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property adjacent to the city of New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, for inclusion in the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2015. A bill to convey certain real property located within the Carlsbad Project in New Mexico to the Carlsbad Irrigation District; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BYRD, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 2016. A bill to assess the impact of the NAFTA, to require further negotiation of certain provisions of the NAFTA, and to provide for the withdrawal from the NAFTA unless certain conditions are met; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBB, Mr. BRADLEY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 286. Resolution to commend Operation Sail for its advancement of brotherhood among nations, its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States, and its nurturing of young cadets through training in seamanship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 2009. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

THE OIL POLLUTION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1996

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I introduce legislation to improve marine safety in the transportation of oil and petroleum products and to enhance the safety of our waterway navigational systems. It has been over 7 years since the Senate approved legislation addressing a comprehensive program regulating the transportation of oil and petroleum products, and mandating a system of responding to oilspills. Since

the enactment of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, there has been a marked improvement in the safety of maritime transportation of oil. According to a recent study, after 1990, the volume of oil pollution from maritime sources in U.S. waters dropped precipitously, and has been reduced by over 75 percent. In addition, there has been a decreasing number of large volume oilspills. For instance, in the 5-year period between 1986 and the end of 1990, there were an average of 25 major and medium oilspills per year, however, since 1990, the average number of large and medium spills decreased 33 percent to approximately 16 per year. Despite these increases in safety there are other steps that can be taken to improve safety, and the bill I am introducing today will continue the improvement of the safe transportation of oil and other petroleum products.

During consideration of the Oil Pollution Act, the Senate Commerce Committee held four hearings on the six different bills that were referred to the Commerce Committee. The end Senate legislative product incorporated the Commerce Committee's provisions on: The operations of oil tankers, enhanced Coast Guard authority to regulate the conduct of oil tankers and merchant marine personnel, requirements on Vessel Traffic Services [VTS] systems, marine oil transportation-related research, and oilspill contingency response plans as they pertain to vessels and offshore facilities. The Senate bill also included the Committee on Environment and Public Works provisions creating the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, increasing liability limits, and oilspill contingency response planning as it pertains to onshore facilities.

I am introducing this legislation today to build on the Commerce Committee marine safety improvements that were incorporated into the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Title I of the bill would require the Coast Guard to finalize regulations on operational measures required for single-hull tankers, add certain new safety requirements for the tug-barge industry, and mandate a minimum underkeel clearance level for tank vessels. The bill also would create incentives to induce vessel operators to switch from single hulled vessels to double-hulled vessels in advance of their mandated phase out. The bill simplifies the procedures for resolution of oilspill claims, and allows vessel operators to consolidate all claims in one Federal proceeding.

Title II of the bill will provide the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] with the authority to allow emergency regulations for fishing grounds closures to respond to health emergencies and oilspills. The bill would also require NOAA to provide scientific support on oilspill information. Also included in title II are provisions which would authorize a grant program to establish a non-regulatory program for reducing the risk of oilspills, and authorize NOAA to