

mentioned in my statement, this legislation would implement the Panama Declaration, an important step forward in the protection of dolphins during tuna fishing in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Because of the Senate floor time needed for the appropriations bills, we simply have not had the time to overcome the procedural obstacles that opponents of S. 1420 have used, or would attempt to use, to try to stop S. 1420.

Mr. BREAUX. I agree with the Senator from Alaska. By stopping our bill, opponents of S. 1420 and H.R. 2823 have sent a dangerous message to the other nations fishing in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. That message could have dire consequences on dolphin conservation. If we were from those nations, we might feel the same way. They have satisfied the conservation goals set by the United States in the last 10 years, and now the United States has turned its back on them.

Mr. LOTT. I share the disappointment and concern of the Senators from Alaska and Louisiana. Their bill, S. 1420, as well as the House companion, H.R. 2823, have broad bipartisan support in the Congress and the support of the U.S. tuna boat owners, the mainstream environmental community, and the Administration. Last week Senator BOXER objected to our motion to consider H.R. 2823. Because of the time constraints we face in the closing days of the 104th Congress, there is no way to overcome her objections—even though a substantial majority of the Senate would probably vote for this legislation.

Mr. BREAUX. It is truly unfortunate that the bill will not pass this year, but the issue will not just disappear. We will do what we can to convince the signatory nations of the Panama Declaration not to abandon the Declaration, and we intend to pursue the enactment of these changes early in the next Congress.

Mr. STEVENS. I concur. Though we have been unsuccessful in enacting S. 1420 and H.R. 2823 before the close of the 104th Congress, it is our intent to reintroduce the bill at the beginning of the 105th Congress and seek its expeditious enactment. At the beginning of the next Congress, we will have the time to overcome procedural measures used by opponents.

Mr. LOTT. It pleases me to hear the Senator from Alaska and the Senator from Louisiana commit to pursuing this legislation in the next Congress. I will do everything I can to provide time on the Senate floor to allow a vote on this important legislation as soon as the legislation is ready at the beginning of the year.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 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 bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1332. An act to make certain technical changes affecting United States territories, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4233. An act to provide for appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 in Federal construction projects, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4236. An act to provide for the administration of certain Presidio properties at minimal cost to the Federal taxpayer, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4278. An act making omnibus consolidated appropriations for fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4282. An act to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 to make a technical correction relating to the provision of Department of Defense assistance to local educational agencies.

H.R. 4283. An act to provide for ballast water management to prevent the introduction and spread of nonindigenous species into the waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 198. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress and the day for the counting in Congress of the electoral votes for President and Vice President cast in December 1996.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 230. Concurrent resolution providing for the sine die adjournment of the second session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2700) to designate the building located at 8302 FM 327, Elmendorf, TX, which houses operations of the U.S. Postal Service, as the "Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building."

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2779) to provide for appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 in Federal construction projects, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3005) to amend the Federal securities laws in order to promote efficiency and capital formation in the

financial markets, and to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to promote more efficient management of mutual funds, protect investors, and provide more effective and less burdensome regulation.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3118) to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform eligibility for health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to authorize major medical facility construction projects for the Department, to improve administration of health care by the Department, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3458) to increase, effective as of December 1, 1996, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3815) to make technical corrections and miscellaneous amendments to trade laws.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3610) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3723. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect proprietary economic information, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the resolution (H. Res. 554) that the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 400) to provide for the exchange of lands within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, and for other purposes, in the opinion of the House, contravenes the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the House and that such bill with the Senate amendment thereto be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating the resolution.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1711. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to provide for a study of the Federal programs for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1965. An act to prevent the illegal manufacturing and use of methamphetamine.

S. 1973. An act to provide for the settlement of the Navajo-Hopi land dispute, and for other purposes.