

Yugoslav vessels received on April 17, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban 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. GRAMS (for himself and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 651. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the conducting of certain games of chance shall not be treated as an unrelated trade or business; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAMS (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 652. A bill to facilitate recovery from the recent flooding of the Red River of the North and its tributaries by providing greater flexibility for depository institutions and their regulators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 653. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction from gross income for home care and adult day and respite care expenses of individual taxpayers with respect to a dependent of the taxpayer who suffers from Alzheimer's disease or related organic brain disorders; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 654. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the dependent care credit refundable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 655. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to adopt and enforce certain guardianship laws providing protection and rights to wards and individuals subject to guardianship proceedings as a condition of eligibility for receiving funds under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. ROTH, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 656. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude from the definition of employee firefighters and rescue squad workers who perform volunteer services and to prevent employers from requiring employees who are firefighters or rescue squad workers to perform volunteer services, and to allow an employer not to pay overtime compensation to a firefighter or rescue squad worker who performs volunteer services for the employer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 657. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive military retired pay concurrently with veterans' disability compensation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 658. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gunrunning, and provide mandatory minimum penalties for crimes related to gunrunning; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GLENN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 659. A bill to amend the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 to

provide for implementation of recommendations of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service contained in the Great Lakes Fishery Restoration Study Report; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 651. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the conducting of certain games of chance shall not be treated as an unrelated trade or business; to the Committee on Finance.

THE UNRELATED BUSINESS INCOME TAX CHARITABLE GAMBLING EXEMPTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce S. 651, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to exempt charitable gambling activities from Federal unrelated business income tax [UBIT].

Charitable gambling consists mostly of games such as pull tabs and raffles. The difference between charitable and regular gambling is where and how the profit is spent. Most of the income derived from charitable gambling games are spent in communities to fund activities such as Boy and Girl Scouts, Head Start, and city and school programs.

In fact, charitable gambling and bingo games have become one of the most important sources to provide funding for many activities in communities for people of all ages. In my home State, Minnesota, charitable gambling pumped up \$77.5 million in profits into a variety of community and charitable causes in 1995. The beneficiaries include youth recreation and education, as well as organizations serving the sick, handicapped, retarded and disabled and many other community programs.

Many charitable gambling games are set up solely for the purpose of raising money for public projects, thus reducing the burden on taxpayers. For example, Minnesota Belle Plaine Friends of the Library charitable gambling was started 4 years ago for the purpose of helping fund a new library in town. Today, they have donated more than \$105,000 to the library project.

In 1978, President Carter signed into law a bill that classified bingo income as related business income. As a result, this charitable game is not subject to the Federal UBIT. But the law did not include other forms of charitable gambling. Consequently, the income of these charitable gambling games is taxed under the UBIT.

Taxes take a big bite out of charitable gambling income. It has seriously undermined nonprofit organizations' ability to provide financial assistance for local activities. Here is an example of the revenue loss. Last year, the Minnesota American Legion donated \$103,000 to the Cancer Research Center at the University of Minnesota. However, under current law, the income is

subject to the UBIT. Only \$5,150 of the \$103,000 was a deductible contribution, and \$97,850 was taxed at rates up to 38 percent.

This is simply not fair. Charitable donations should be encouraged, not penalized, to fund more local initiatives, projects and programs that benefit our communities. That's what the bill is all about.

By Mr. GRAMS (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 652. A bill to facilitate recovery from the recent flooding of the Red River of the North and its tributaries by providing greater flexibility for depository institutions and their regulators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

THE DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION DISASTER RELIEF ACT OF 1997

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I want to speak about a subject this morning dealing with the flood situations back in Minnesota, and North Dakota and South Dakota as well.

Mr. President, as you know, over the past several weeks, towns and farms in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota have been battered by the flood waters of the Red River and Minnesota River. It is impossible to describe the devastation the floods are causing in Minnesota and North Dakota because the enormity of the damage is far, far beyond what anyone has ever had to put into words.

As I made my third trip into the flood disaster area this week, traveling with President Clinton and my colleagues in the Minnesota and North Dakota congressional delegations, I found myself searching for adjectives but finding none that could reflect the loss and heartache inflicted upon our neighbors. Their lives have been shattered. Entire communities—homes, schools, churches, hospitals, libraries—have literally been washed away. Thousands of residents have no home to go home to, so they crowd into shelters, unsure what the river will leave behind when it finally releases its hold. Many cannot sleep because there is so much uncertainty. They cannot bathe because there is no running water. They cannot make plans because there are so many unanswered questions.

At the moment, it does not seem like much of a life. By nature, Minnesotans are a stoic people. In a land where the temperatures can plunge to 30 degrees below zero in mid-winter and soar past a hundred in the summer, we have learned how to get on with life without too much complaining. But for many, the veneer is wearing a little thin. It is hard to be stoic when you have lost your home and your job. It is hard to look forward to tomorrow when all you have got is a cot on the floor of an airplane hanger, where you may be living for weeks.

Mr. President, I am working with the Governor of Minnesota and my fellow Senators in the flood area to assess