

Senator THURMOND has endured the loss of his first wife, the loss of his daughter. But through it all, he has been indomitable. Always optimistic. Unfailingly courteous, the epitome of a Southern gentleman—despite living in our current age, when good manners seem to elude us so readily. I hope he has a sense of the respect and affection we have for him.

When I think of our colleague, I think of the wonderful poem, "Ulysses", by Alfred Lord Tennyson—one of the great English poets, who, I might add, died a mere decade before Senator THURMOND was born, and I would like to close my tribute with an excerpt from the poem:

I am become a name;  
For always roaming with a hungry heart  
Much have I seen and known; cities of men  
And manners, climates, councils, governments,  
Myself not least, but honour'd of them all;  
And drunk delight of battle with my peers,  
Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.  
I am a part of all that I have met;  
Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'  
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades  
For ever and forever when I move.  
How dull it is to pause, to make an end,  
To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use!  
As tho' to breathe were life!  
No one ever could accuse Senator THURMOND of "rusting unburnish'd"!

#### JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD EXTENSION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, in 1992, I sponsored a joint resolution in collaboration with Congressman LOUIS STOKES, who served as chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, to expedite disclosure of materials relevant to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. That act created the Assassination Review Board, which was directed to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. While the review board has made significant progress in its important work, it will need additional time to complete its task. Today, I am introducing a bill that will authorize the board's extension for 1 year.

Through October 1996, the review board was successful in transferring nearly 10,000 documents to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the JFK Collection. Although much has been accomplished, Congress, in setting its original 3-year timetable, was simply unable to anticipate a number of problems the board has encountered since beginning its work. The board was not appointed until 18 months after the legislation was signed into law. In addition, Federal agencies have been slow in identifying records to be processed and the hiring and training of new employees to work with the board has taken longer than expected. Nevertheless, the review board serves a vital

function of removing some of the uncertainty and speculation about the contents of Government files relating to President Kennedy's assassination. An additional year will permit the board to finish its important task.

According to information provided to me, over the past 5 years, the review board has worked to facilitate the maximum appropriate disclosure of any additional materials which may have been withheld by the FBI, CIA, Secret Service, or any other Federal agency.

In addition, the House committee decided to withhold certain materials for 50 years following the publication of its report in 1979, or until the year 2029. According to information provided to me, the review board has also worked to facilitate the maximum appropriate disclosure of any of these materials which may have been withheld by the House committee.

#### 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 a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

#### REPORT CONCERNING EMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, AND UKRAINE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 43

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

I hereby transmit a report concerning emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine as required by subsections 402(b) and 409(b) of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"). I have determined that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine are in full compliance with subsections 402(a) and 409(a) of the Act. As required by title IV, I will provide the Congress with periodic reports regarding the compliance of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine with these emigration standards.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 3, 1997.

#### REPORT CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR ALBANIA, BELARUS, KAZAKSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, AND UZBEKISTAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 44

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), with respect to a further 12-month extension of authority to waive subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue in effect this waiver authority for a further 12-month period, and includes my reasons for determining that continuation of the waiver authority and waivers currently in effect for Albania, Belarus, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. I have submitted a separate report with respect to the People's Republic of China.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 3, 1997.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, Mrs. Goetz, announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 711(b) of Public Law 104-293, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Henry F. Cooper of Virginia to the Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction on the part of the House.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 114(b) of Public Law 100-458 (2 U.S.C. 1103), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mrs. FOWLER of Florida.

At 3:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5. An act to amend the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, to reauthorize and make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

#### 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-111. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, while the history of organized labor has often been marked by difficulties and controversy over the years, working men and women bargaining in good faith through formal labor negotiations has brought many benefits to our state and nation. The standard of living for working families is much higher than it could possibly be without organization. For responsible companies, the steady supply of reliable workers also brings many rewards and long-term stability; and

Whereas, in recent years, a shift seems to be occurring in strategy for businesses in how they handle labor disputes. Too often, the initial response in a labor dispute is for management to hire replacement workers instead of negotiating with the workers. This short-sighted action severely hinders all communications between management and workers. Often, hiring replacement workers sets in motion an escalating series of actions that are harmful to everyone; and

Whereas, Michigan has experienced this recently through the lengthy and bitter newspaper strike in Detroit. Hiring permanent replacement workers has clearly hindered the effectiveness of negotiations and made a difficult situation far worse and more divisive than necessary. This extended tension is harmful to labor, management, and the public; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives*, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to prohibit the hiring of permanent replacement workers as an alternative to negotiations and settlements of labor disputes; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution and the roll call on its adoption be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-112. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

Whereas, the ever-increasing cost of prescription drugs is causing a hardship for low-income seniors and low-income persons of all ages; and

Whereas, the problem is not caused by local pharmacists who at this time are engaged in a class action suit to correct this injustice; and

Whereas, some of the cost of research and development of prescription drugs is funded through the National Institutes of Health and paid for by tax dollars; and

Whereas, the prescription drugs manufactured by these United States companies can be purchased in Canada or Mexico for one-half to one-third of the cost in the United States; and

Whereas, most seniors are reliant on Medicare, which does not pay for most prescription drugs; many Americans' health insurance does not cover prescription drugs; and altogether, consumers purchase three-quarters of all prescription drugs out of pocket;

Whereas, many seniors live on fixed incomes, and incomes have not kept pace with the prices of prescription drugs that from 1980 to 1991 outpaced the general inflation rate 3 to 1; and

Whereas, certain consumers have no recourse other than to use drugs regulated by the federal Orphan Drug Act, and the prices of these drugs are not subject to market pressures.

*Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana*, That the United States Congress continue its investigation into the reasons for the exorbitant drug prices charged to customers who have no other alternatives and enact legislation to remedy this situation.

*Be it further resolved*, That the Secretary of State send a copy 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, and each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

POM-113. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 377

Whereas, the services provided by Emergency Medical Service (EMS) employees play a critical role in protecting the lives and health of citizens throughout the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, EMS employees work and live alongside their firefighter counterparts in fire stations on a 24-hour, 365-day-a-year basis and are an integral part of the emergency service delivery system; and

Whereas, providing effective and cost-efficient emergency medical services is best achieved by scheduling EMS employees to work 24-hour shifts rather than traditional eight-hour shifts; and

Whereas, a majority of EMS employees support the 24-hour shift versus the eight-hour shift; and

Whereas, the provisions of current federal law (29 USCS §207) require that employers pay overtime compensation equal to one and one-half times the regular rate of compensation when an employee works longer than 40 hours in one week. The federal statute does provide an overtime exemption for the employers of fire, police and corrections personnel. The exemption allows employers of these employees to calculate overtime pay by averaging the number of hours worked over a period of 28 days rather than on a weekly basis, thereby reducing overtime costs for localities. This exemption permits localities to schedule employees in a more productive, economical, and efficient manner; and

Whereas, a recent judicial decision has resulted in the federal government interpreting 29 USCS §207 in a manner that precludes a similar overtime exemption for EMS employees; and

Whereas, the lack of an overtime exemption for EMS personnel results in increased operating costs for localities and a reduction in operating efficiency; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring*, That Congress be urged to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to better address the unique characteristics of emergency medical service employees and to provide an overtime exemption for such employees similar to that provided for fire, police and corrections employees; and, be it

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

POM-114. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 314

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

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

Whereas, two-thirds of all new drugs approved in the last six years by the Food and Drug Administration were approved first in other countries, with approval of a new drug in the United States taking 15 years; and

Whereas, although the United States has long led the world in discovering new drugs, too many new medicines are first introduced in other countries, with 40 drugs currently approved in one or more foreign countries still in development in the United States or awaiting FDA approval; and

Whereas, patients are waiting for the industry to discover and efficiently develop safe and effective new medicines sooner; 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, the current rules and practices governing the review of new drugs, biological products, and medical devices by the Food and Drug Administration can delay approvals and are unnecessarily expensive; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring*, That Congress be urged to enact legislation to facilitate the Food and Drug Administration's procedures for the approval of safe and effective innovative new drugs, biological products and medical devices; and, be it

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

POM-115. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 401

Whereas, because of the large number of federal military installations and contracting industries located in the Commonwealth, over 725,000 veterans of the armed services now live in Virginia; and

Whereas, approximately 97,000 veterans of Operation Desert Storm now reside in Virginia; and

Whereas, medical facilities for veterans are now located in Salem, Hampton, Richmond, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland; and

Whereas, the health of many veterans is declining due to advancing age and health conditions associated with their service in the military; and

Whereas, travel to available veterans' medical facilities is difficult and inconvenient for many veterans who live in Northern Virginia; and

Whereas, an estimated 220,000 veterans live within a 50-mile radius of a Northern Virginia site proposed for a veterans' medical facility; and

Whereas, construction of a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Northern Virginia has been authorized by the federal government, but has never been funded; and

Whereas, such a clinic is urgently needed, and a suitable facility is now available for lease from a willing vendor; and

Whereas, similar outpatient clinics have demonstrated their cost-effectiveness by releasing in-patient beds at other facilities, freeing medical and technical personnel for other duties, and accelerating recovery time by keeping patients close to home; and

Whereas, a resolution supporting such a facility was adopted at the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1996; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Congress of the United States be urged to authorize and fund the establishment of a veterans' medical outpatient clinic in Northern Virginia; and, be it

*Resolved further*, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the members of the Congressional Delegation of Virginia, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

POM-116. A resolution adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Millburn, County of Essex, New Jersey relative to private relief; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-117. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio relative to the illegal drug trade; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-118. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio relative to the illegal drug trade; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-119. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 97-1011

Whereas, the annual federal budget has not been balanced since 1969, and the federal public debt is now more than \$5 trillion, an amount equaling approximately \$20,000 for every man, woman, and child in America; and

Whereas, continued deficit spending demonstrates an unwillingness or inability of both the federal executive and legislative branches to spend no more than available revenues; and

Whereas, fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is lowering our standard of living, destroying jobs, and endangering economic opportunity now and for the next generation; and

Whereas, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow raises questions about fundamental principles and responsibilities of government, with potentially profound consequences for the nation and its People, making it an appropriate subject for limitation by the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove constitutional amendments with the People, as represented by their elected state legislatures, and opposition by a small minority in the United States Congress repeatedly has thwarted the will of the People that a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution should be submitted to the states for ratification; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein*: That the General Assembly requests the United States Congress to expeditiously pass, and propose to the legislatures of the several

states for ratification, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that, in the absence of a national emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year.

*Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to all members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and to the Secretary of State, and the presiding officers of both houses of the legislatures of each of the other states.

POM-120. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Delaware; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 6

Whereas, separation of powers is fundamental to the United States Constitution and the power of the federal government is strictly limited; and

Whereas, under the United States Constitution, the states are to determine public policy; and

Whereas, it is the duty of the judiciary to interpret the law, not to create law; and

Whereas, our present federal government has strayed from the intent of our founding fathers and the United States Constitution through inappropriate federal mandates; and

Whereas, these mandates by way of statute, rule or judicial decision have forced state governments to serve as the mere administrative arm of the federal government; and

Whereas, federal district courts with the acquiescence of the United States Supreme Court, continue to order states to levy or increase taxes to comply with federal mandates; and

Whereas, these court actions violate the United States Constitution and the legislative process; and

Whereas, the time has come for the people of this great nation and their duly elected representatives in state government, to reaffirm, in no certain terms that the authority to tax under the Constitution of the United States is retained by the people who, by their consent alone, do delegate such power to tax explicitly to those duly elected representatives in the legislative branch of government who they choose, such representatives being directly responsible and accountable to those who have elected them; and

Whereas, several states have petitioned the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and

Whereas, the amendment was previously introduced in Congress; and

Whereas, the amendment seeks to prevent federal courts from levying or increasing taxes without representation of the people and against the people's wishes; and

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the 139th General Assembly, the Senate concurring therein*, That the Congress of the United States prepare and submit to the several states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to add a new article providing as follows:

"Neither the Supreme Court nor any inferior court of the United States shall have the power to instruct or order a state or a political subdivision thereof, or an official of such a state or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes."

*Be it further resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of Delaware also proposes that the legislatures of each of the several states comprising the United States that have not yet made similar requests apply to the United States Congress requesting enactment of an appropriate amendment to the United States Constitution, and apply to the United

States Congress to propose such an amendment to the United States Constitution.

*Be it further resolved*, That the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware transmit copies of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the presiding officer in each house of legislature in each of the states of the Union, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate and to each member of the State of Delaware Congressional Delegation.

#### SYNOPSIS

In 1990 a U.S. Supreme Court decision (*Missouri v. Jenkins*) upheld an appeals court ruling which affirmed a District Court's order allowing the local school board to raise property taxes as part of a school desegregation plan in Kansas City. This Resolution calls for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution which would end the self-proclaimed authority and power to tax which the federal courts have given themselves. The language of the proposed amendment does not change the Constitution. Rather, it reasserts a basic premise of representative government—there shall be no taxation without representation.

POM-121. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

Whereas, although the right of free expression is part of the foundation of the United States Constitution, very carefully drawn limits on expression in specific instances have long been recognized as legitimate means of maintaining public safety and decency, as well as orderliness and productive value of public debate; and

Whereas, certain actions, although arguably related to one person's free expression, nevertheless; and

Whereas, the matter is still unresolved and pending as a subject of great interest and concern; and

Whereas, there are symbols of our national soul such as the Washington Monument, the United States Capitol Building, and memorials to our greatest leaders, which are the property of every American and are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

Whereas, the American Flag to this day is a most honorable and worthy banner of a nation which is thankful for its strengths and committed to curing its faults, and remains the destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal; and

Whereas, the Maryland House of Delegates voted 101 to 30 and the Maryland Senate voted 42 to 5 to approve the Joint Resolution on March 3, 1994; and

Whereas, it is only fitting that people everywhere should lend their voices to a forceful call for restoration to the Stars and Stripes of a proper station under law and decency; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the General Assembly respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution, for ratification by the states, specifying that Congress and the states shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the President of the U.S. Senate; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building,

Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

POM-122. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 307

Whereas, in addition to setting quotas for the number of immigrants who may enter this country legally, the federal government has the responsibility of maintaining the borders of the United States against illegal entry; and

Whereas, while illegal aliens are not entitled to assistance in the form of social services, states are required by federal statute or by court decisions to provide emergency medical care, education, nutrition programs, and incarceration for many undocumented aliens with little or no reimbursement from the federal government; and

Whereas, many states are being hit hard by budgetary cutbacks and are feeling the impact on state revenues and expenditures incurred by these federal mandates; and

Whereas, some states have tried unsuccessfully to use the legal system to recoup some of these expenses from the federal government; and

Whereas, although the federal government has been forthcoming with some funds to help with some of the costs, the amounts are negligible in comparison to the actual costs to the states; and

Whereas, the recent federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 addresses some issues of social assistance to aliens, but the financial impact is more addressed to immigrants who are here legally; and

Whereas, there appears to be a need for a better working relationship between the states and the United States Immigration and Naturalization Services to identify those persons who are here illegally; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring.* That the Congress of the United States be urged to take appropriate steps to reimburse the states for the costs of services provided to illegal aliens; and, be it

*Resolved further,* That the Congress be urged to honor its obligations to protect the United States borders and to expedite the removal of those who reside here illegally; and, be it

*Resolved finally,* That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the members of the Congressional Delegation of Virginia in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance:

Robert S. LaRussa, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he 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. BROWNBACK:

S. 820. A bill to amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to limit certain retirement benefits of Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. Brownback:

S. 821. A bill to reduce the pay of Members of Congress, eliminate automatic cost-of-living pay increases for Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 822. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide for demonstration projects to test the feasibility of establishing kinship care as an alternative to foster care for a child who has adult relatives willing to provide safe and appropriate care for the child, and to require notice to adult relative caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 823. A bill to provide for the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to members of the Armed Forces who participate in Operation Joint Endeavor or Operation Joint Guard in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 824. A bill to prohibit the relocation of certain Marine Corps helicopter aircraft to Naval Air Station Miramar, California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 825. A bill to provide for violent and repeat juvenile offender accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 826. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to protect the public from health hazards caused by exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 827. A bill to promote the adoption of children in foster care; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 828. A bill to provide for the reduction in the number of children who use tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 829. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the production and use of clean-fuel vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S.J. Res. 31. A joint resolution disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 822. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to pro-

vide for demonstration projects to test the feasibility of establishing kinship care as an alternative to foster care for a child who has adult relatives willing to provide safe and appropriate care for the child, and to require notice to adult relative caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

THE KINSHIP CARE ACT OF 1997

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Kinship Care Act of 1997. Grandparents caring for grandchildren represent one of the most underappreciated and perhaps underutilized natural resources in our Nation. Yet they hold tremendous potential for curing one of our society's most pressing problems—the care of children who have no parents, or whose parents simply aren't up to the task of providing children a stable, secure, and nurturing living environment.

There is such a great reservoir of love and experience available to us, and more especially to the tens of thousands of American children who desperately need basic care giving. We provide public assistance for strangers to give this kind of care, but the folks available to do it are in short supply.

Legislation I am introducing in the Senate today will give States the flexibility to provide the support these grandparents need, so that our seniors can fill the care gap. Last year, as part of welfare reform, Senator COATS and I were successful in passing legislation that would give preference to an adult relative over a nonrelated caregiver when determining a placement for a child. My new legislation will continue the process of shifting the focus of our child welfare system from leaving children with strangers to leaving them in the loving arms of grandparents and other relatives.

I am not noticing a new trend. States have been moving in this direction for over a decade. Over the past 10 years the number of children involved in extended family arrangements has increased by 40 percent. Currently, more than four million children are being raised by their grandparents. In other words, 5 percent of all families in this country are headed by grandparents.

My view is that it's time for the Federal Government to get with the program and start developing policies that make it easier, instead of more difficult, for families to come together to raise their children.

My bill has several parts. First, it would allow States to obtain waivers to set up kinship care guardianship systems where grandparents and other relative providers can receive some financial assistance without having to turn over custody of the child to the State and without having to go through the paperwork and bureaucratic hurdles of the foster care system.

Grandparents already face a number of hurdles when they suddenly find themselves caring for a grandchild. These may include living in seniors-only housing, not having clothes or