

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time granted to the Senator from Georgia has now expired.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORT OF DRAFT LEGISLATION ENTITLED "THE CLONING PROHIBITION ACT OF 1997"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 46

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 the Judiciary.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit today for immediate consideration and prompt enactment the "Cloning Prohibition Act of 1997." This legislative proposal would prohibit any attempt to create a human being using somatic cell nuclear transfer technology, the method that was used to create Dolly the sheep. This proposal will also provide for further review of the ethical and scientific issues associated with the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer in human beings.

Following the February report that a sheep had been successfully cloned using a new technique, I requested my National Bioethics Advisory Commission to examine the ethical and legal implications of applying the same cloning technology to human beings. The Commission concluded that at this time "it is morally unacceptable for anyone in the public or private sector, whether in a research or clinical setting, to attempt to create a child using somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning" and recommended that Federal legislation be enacted to prohibit such activities. I agree with the Commission's conclusion and am transmitting this legislative proposal to implement its recommendation.

Various forms of cloning technology have been used for decades resulting in important biomedical and agricultural advances. Genes, cells, tissues, and even whole plants and animals have been cloned to develop new therapies for treating such disorders as cancer, diabetes, and cystic fibrosis. Cloning technology also holds promise for producing replacement skin, cartilage, or bone tissue for burn or accident victims, and nerve tissue to treat spinal cord injury. Therefore, nothing in the "Cloning Prohibition Act of 1997" restricts activities in other areas of biomedical and agricultural research that involve: (1) the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer or other cloning tech-

nologies to clone molecules, DNA, cells, and tissues; or (2) the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer techniques to create animals.

The Commission recommended that such legislation provide for further review of the state of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology and the ethical and social issues attendant to its potential use to create human beings. My legislative proposal would implement this recommendation and assign responsibility for the review, to be completed in the fifth year after passage of the legislation, to the National Bioethics Advisory Commission.

I urge the Congress to give this legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 9, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1469. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, were read the first time:

H.R. 908. An act to establish a Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals.

H.R. 1000. An act to require States to establish a system to prevent prisoners from being considered part of any household for purposes of determining eligibility of the household for food stamp benefits and the amount of food stamp benefits to be provided to the household under the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2085. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice, transmitting pursuant to law, a report on a rule entitled "Revision of Regulations Governing the Remission or Mitigation of Civil and Criminal Forfeitures" (RIN1105-AA23), received on June 2, 1997; to the Judiciary Committee.

EC-2086. A communication from the General Counsel of the Office of Management and Budget, from the Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on a rule entitled "Release of Official Information, and Testimony by OMB Person-

nel as Witnesses, In Litigation", received on May 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2087. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Career Preparation Education Reform Act of 1997", received on June 4, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2088. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services from the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Quality Control Provisions of the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act", received on June 2, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2089. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a major rule relative to licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to its applicants and licensees, (RIN3150-AF55) received on May 22, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2090. A communication from the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "NHTSA Plan for Achieving Harmonization of the U.S. and European Side Impact Standards"; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2091. A communication from the Legislative Counsel of the Office of the Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a draft of proposed legislation to make corrections to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, received on June 4, 1997; to the Committee on Energy.

EC-2092. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, Department of Interior, transmitting, a report relative to sustained agricultural production under irrigation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2093. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule that amends the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, (RIN1904-AA45) received on June 4, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2094. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Guidelines for Furnishing Sensori-neural Aids," (RIN2900-AI60) received on June 3, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2095. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Scheduling for Rating Disabilities; Muscle Injuries," (RIN2900-AE89) received on June 3, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2096. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 95-15; to the Committee on Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee were submitted:

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special entitled "Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 104th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs" (Rept. 105-23).

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Select Committee on Intelligence, without amendment: