

received in the Senate, all after the enacting clause be stricken, except appropriations for the House of Representatives and House Office Buildings, and that the text of S. 1019, as passed, be inserted in lieu thereof, the Senate insist on its amendments, and request a conference with the House; and, finally, the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the House bill is passed, pursuant to the previous order, the passage of S. 1019 be vitiated, and that S. 1019 be indefinitely postponed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing no objection, so ordered.
I thank the Chair.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, July 15, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,357,142,567,691.66. (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-seven billion, one hundred forty-two million, five hundred sixty-seven thousand, six hundred ninety-one dollars and sixty-six cents)

One year ago, July 15, 1996, the federal debt stood at \$5,156,314,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred fifty-six billion, three hundred fourteen million)

Five years ago, July 15, 1992, the federal debt stood at \$3,976,930,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred seventy-six billion, nine hundred thirty million)

Ten years ago, July 15, 1987, the federal debt stood at \$2,318,428,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred eighteen billion, four hundred twenty-eight million)

Fifteen years ago, July 15, 1982, the federal debt stood at \$1,083,163,000,000. (One trillion, eighty-three billion, one hundred sixty-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,273,979,567,691.66 (Four trillion, two hundred seventy-three billion, nine hundred seventy-nine million, five hundred sixty-seven thousand, six hundred ninety-one dollars and sixty-six cents) during the past 15 years.

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 nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

REPORT OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 53

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1823(b), to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China Extending the Agreement of July 23, 1985, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with Annexes and Agreed Minutes, as amended and extended. This Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Beijing on June 6 and July 1, 1996, extends the 1985 Agreement to July 1, 1998.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the People's Republic of China, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 16, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12 noon, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it request the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 378. An act for the relief of Heraclio Tolley.

H.R. 584. An act for the relief of John Wesley Davis.

H.R. 1818. An act to amend the Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2107. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2035. An act to authorize transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 40003 of Public Law 105-18, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education: Mr. Martin Anderson of California, Mr.

George Ulaldner of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Jonathan Brown of California.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:33 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 bill:

H.R. 2018. An act to waive temporarily the Medicaid enrollment composition rule for the Better Health Plan of Amherst, New York.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 378. An act for the relief of Heraclio Tolley; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1818. An act to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2107. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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-2494. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide for calendar year 1994; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2495. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules received on June 30, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2496. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, fifteen rules received on July 3, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2497. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on July 14, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2498. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules received on June 30, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2499. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on June 30, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2500. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule

received on July 7, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2501. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, twelve rules received on July 10, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2502. A communication from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on July 1, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2503. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on June 27, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2504. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2505. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2506. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2507. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules received on July 16, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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-185. A resolution adopted by the Blount County (Tennessee) Legislative Body relative to the National Spallation Neutron Source; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GREGG, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1022. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-48).

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1023. An original bill making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-49).

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. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. ROTH, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REID, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

S. 1021. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to preference eligibles applying for certain positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 1022. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1023. An original bill making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1024. A bill to make chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code permanent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MACK, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1025. A bill to provide for a study of the South Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GORTON (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 108. Resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the European Commissions handling of the Boeing McDonnell-Douglas merger; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. ROTH, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REID), and Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1021. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to preference eligibles applying for certain positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

THE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1997

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Em-

ployment Opportunities Act of 1997, along with my good friend and distinguished colleague, Senator MAX CLELAND. We are joined by Senators HUTCHINSON of Arkansas, HELMS, DORGAN, ROTH, FAIRCLOTH, BURNS, LANDRIEU, MOYNIHAN, REID of Nevada, and CAMPBELL. This important piece of legislation is needed to help America's most deserving and self-sacrificing citizens, our veterans, to get and hold jobs with the Federal Government.

In 1944, the Congress enacted the first veterans employment preference legislation. That law was intended to assist service men and women returning from the battlefields of World War II in getting Federal Government jobs. Through the years many changes have taken place in the way we manage civil service personnel within our Government, and most recently there has been considerable focus on downsizing the Federal bureaucracy. One thing has not changed however, and that is that our veterans need to find employment when they return to civilian life.

This bill addresses the critical need to revise and make more "user friendly" those laws that help veterans to get Federal jobs, and to hold on to them as the Government downsizes. I want to emphasize that this bill does not guarantee anyone a job, but it does allow the sacrifices made by those who served in uniform to have their service recognized as they are considered along with others for Federal jobs.

The statistical evidence of need for this legislation tells a troubling story. When Federal job openings occur, the hiring official is sent a job referral list that includes the names of qualified applicants from which the job can be filled. The General Accounting Office [GAO] found that 71 percent of job referral lists were returned without hiring when a veteran headed the list. By contrast, 51 percent of nonveteran lists are returned. Not only are veterans not getting the preference that the statutes require, but too often, veterans are less likely than other applicants to be hired for a Federal job.

This bill will also end unfair designer RIFs that single out veterans for removal from the Federal work force during reductions in force. Perhaps more important, this bill makes a violation of this law a prohibited personnel practice, putting teeth in the law where none now exist.

I am proud to say that 19 military, veterans, and patriotic associations have indicated that such legislation is needed and that they strongly support this legislation.

Those who have made very special contributions to America and our way of life, ensuring freedom and individual liberties to all Americans, deserve recognition and fairness when applying for employment in Federal Government. Our veterans do not ask for special privileges. Fifty years ago this Nation made the decision to recognize the sacrifices and extra commitment made by