

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