PROFESSIONAL BOXING SAFETY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 1506, introduced earlier today by Senators MCCAIN and BRYAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1506) to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, this legislation, on behalf of myself and Senator BRYAN of Nevada, would add a small but important amendment to the Professional Boxing Safety Act (P.L. 104–272), that was signed into law last year. This proposal would add language to the act to prevent promoters from exploiting professional boxers with respect to a certain unethical contracting practice. It would prohibit promoters from forcing a boxer, as a pre-condition to signing a contract for a bout, to hire a relative or associate of the promoter as their manager.

Testimony at the Commerce Committee's May 22nd 1997 hearing on the professional boxing industry detailed this practice, and prominent state commissioners have further advised Senator Bryan and I that the ''forced hiring'' of a promoter's relative does indeed occur. The most offensive result of this coercive practice is that boxers are forced to turn over at least *one-third of their earnings* to an individual with whom they have no business or personal relationship whatsoever. If the boxer refuses, they are effectively blacklisted from being able to compete in the lucrative bouts they have fairly earned. Their career may be over.

This practice is simply indefensible, and it clearly takes advantage of the fact that most professional boxers have little leverage in an industry dominated by a handful of powerful promoters. This legislative would end it. This amendment would add a provision to the new federal boxing safety and ethics law (P.L. 104–272) which was enacted with bipartisan support in the Senate and House of Representatives last year. Senator Bryan played a tremendously vital role as cosponsor of the Professional Boxing Safety Act, and he recently joined me in developing this proposal.

If enacted, this modest proposal will provide further assistance to a group of athletes who have had few advocates for too long. I know this legislation will be strongly welcomed by the courageous athletes who sustain the professional boxing industry, as well as the state commissioners who have the responsibility to regulate professional boxing events.

For a promoter to force a boxer to turn over one-third or one-half of his earnings, by threatening to deny them the chance to compete in a major bout, is extremely offensive and unethical. This practice would never be tolerated in any other sport or profession in the U.S. Indeed, it would probably result in the promoter being kicked out of a professional sports league or be the subject of a law enforcement proceeding. The only reason that it has occurred in professional boxing is because the overwhelming majority of boxers in America are completely powerless when it comes to their own financial futures. They are often at the whim of the powerful business interests who dominate the sport. Furthermore, with no union or private industry association to help advocate their causes and interests, boxers are routinely ignored by business entities in the sport.

I am sure that every Member of the Senate would join senator BRYAN and I in ending this egregious practice if they were aware of it. This modest legislative proposal will achieve this goal, and stop one form of exploitation against a group of athletes who have been subject to fraudulent and coercive business practices for decades. I hope my colleagues will support the swift passage of this proposal.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1506) was deemed read the third time and passed.

The text of the bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.

PETER J. MCCLOSKEY POSTAL FACILITY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 264, H.R. 2564.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2564) to designate the United States Post Office located at 450 North Centre Street in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Peter J. McCloskey Postal Facility.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 2564) was read a third time and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed en bloc to the following bills: Calendar No. 259, H.R. 282; calendar No. 262, H.R. 681; calendar No. 263, H.R. 2129; calendar No. 211, H.R. 1057; and calendar No. 212, H.R. 1058.

I further ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read three times and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bills be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place, with the preceding all done en bloc.

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

OSCAR GARCIA RIVERA POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 282) to designate the U.S. Post Office Building located at 153 East 110th Street, New York, NY, as the ''Oscar Garcia Rivera Post Office Building,'' was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

CARLOS J. MOORHEAD POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 681) to designate the U.S. Post Office Building located at 313 East Broadway in Glendale, CA, as the ''Carlos J. Moorhead Post Office Building,'' was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

DOUGLAS APPLEGATE POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 2129) to designate the U.S. Post Office Building located at 150 North 3d Street in Steubenville, OH, as the ''Douglas Applegate Post Office Building,'' was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ANDREW JACOBS, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 1057) to designate the building in Indianapolis, IN, which houses the operation of the Indianapolis Main Post Office as the ''Andrew Jacobs, Jr. Post Office Building,'' was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

JOHN T. MYERS POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 1058) to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service under construction at 150 West Margaret Drive in Terre Haute, IN, as the ''John T. Myers Post Office Building,'' was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.