

## 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 withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

## REPORT OF A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION (98-17) RELATIVE TO VIETNAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 110

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:*

Pursuant to section 402(c)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), I have determined that a waiver of the application of subsections 402(a) and (b) with respect to Vietnam will substantially promote the objectives of section 402. A copy of that determination is attached. I also have received assurances with respect to the emigration practices of Vietnam required by section 402(c)(2)(B) of the Act. This message constitutes the report to the Congress required by section 402(c)(2).

Pursuant to subsection 402(c)(2) of the Act, I shall issue an Executive order waiving the application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act with respect to Vietnam.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 9, 1998.

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 419. An act to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to clause 6(f) of rule X, the Chair removes the gentleman from Iowa, Mr. LEACH, as a conferee on H.R. 1757 and appoints the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. BURTON, to fill the vacancy.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 206. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 187. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted.

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

Richard M. McGahey, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(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. DEWINE:

S. 1741. A bill to provide for teacher training facilities; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1742. A bill to improve the quality of individuals becoming teachers in elementary and secondary schools, to make the teaching profession more accessible to individuals who wish to start a second career, to encourage adults to share their knowledge and experience with children in the classroom, to give officials the flexibility the officials need to hire whom the officials think can do the best job, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER (by request):

S. 1743. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize memorialization of deceased spouses and surviving spouses of veterans and deceased members of the Armed Forces whose remains are not available for interment; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

S. 1744. A bill to redesignate the title of the National Cemetery System and the position of the Director of the National Cemetery System; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

S. 1745. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide flexibility in the order in which the Board of Veterans' Appeals hears and considers appeals; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

S. 1746. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove a statutory provision requiring a specified number of full-time equivalent positions in the VA's Office of Inspector General; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. KERREY):

S. 1747. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for additional taxpayer rights and taxpayer education, notice, and resources, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1741. A bill to provide for teacher training facilities; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE TEACHER QUALITY ACT OF 1998

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to express some serious concerns about what I believe amounts to a crisis in teacher education in the United States. This year, we will consider the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Therefore, it is appropriate that we not focus on the issue of improving teacher training in the United States.

We have to look to new ideas and programs—programs that will help restore America as an academic power. I believe that we must act immediately to find solutions for this crisis, because our children are suffering very serious consequences. Today, I will be offering two pieces of legislation that will serve as the first steps in addressing the future of teacher training and teacher certification.

Before I offer a description of the new legislation, Mr. President, I call my colleagues attention to these alarming statistics: 36% of those now teaching core subjects (English, math, science, social studies, foreign languages) neither majored nor minored in those subjects. A study conducted by the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future revealed, and I'm quoting from a summary of the report:

More than one-quarter of newly hired public school teachers in 1991 lacked the qualifications for their jobs, and nearly one-fourth of all secondary teachers did not even have a minor in their main teaching field.

The Commission also found that, quote:

56% percent of high school students taking physical science were being taught by out-of-field teachers, as were 27% of those taking mathematics and 21% of those taking English. The least qualified teachers were most likely to be found in high-poverty and predominantly minority schools and in lower-track classes. In fact, in schools with the highest minority enrollments, students had less than a 50% chance of getting a science or mathematics teacher who held a license and a degree in the field he or she taught.

Mr. President, this is a travesty—on a truly national scale. No wonder students are doing so poorly on standardized tests. If the teacher does not understand the subject he or she is teaching, then certainly the students will not learn what they need to know. It is inexcusable that in a country as powerful and wealthy as the United States, that we do not give our children the best academic resources available. The United States will not remain a world leader unless we turn this around, and start preparing our children for the future.

The process by which we train our teachers needs to be reformed—and I believe that there is a strong bipartisan consensus to support an effort for reform. Recently, I received a memorandum that was signed by members of