

EC-5391. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, notifications of military retirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5392. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a certification relative to the Department of Defense reduction of acquisition positions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5393. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding allocation of core logistics activities among Department of defense facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5394. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of an exception to the use of competitive procurement procedures for the acquisition of (Stage II) retrofit kits; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5395. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, the report of a cost comparison to reduce the cost of operating base supply functions at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5396. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Panama Canal Treaty for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations: Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 1999" (Rept. 105-211).

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

S. 2159. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-212).

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

S. 2160. An original bill making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-213).

#### 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. SMITH of Oregon:

S. 2156. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to exempt any credit, credit guarantee or other financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture for the purchase or other provision of food or other agricultural commodities from sanctions provided for under the Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2157. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase the authorized funding level for women's business centers; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KERREY, Mr. GORTON, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE):

S. 2158. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to provide that certain sanctions provisions relating to prohibitions on credit, credit guarantees, or other financial assistance not apply with respect to programs of the Department of Agriculture for the purchase or other provision of food or other agricultural commodities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 2159. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 2160. An original bill making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself and Mr. BREAU):

S. 2161. A bill to provide Government-wide accounting of regulatory costs and benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 2162. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to more accurately codify the depreciable life of printed wiring board and printed wiring assembly equipment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. KYL):

S. 2163. A bill to modify the procedures of the Federal courts in certain matters, to reform prisoner litigation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 2164. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to promote rail competition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2165. A bill to amend title 31 of the United States Code to improve methods for preventing financial crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2166. A bill to amend the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide children with increased access to food and nutrition assistance, to simplify program operations and improve program management, to extend certain authorities contained in such Acts through fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2167. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to increase the efficiency and accountability of Offices of Inspector General within Federal departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S.J. Res. 52. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the terms of Senators and Representatives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INOUE:

S.J. Res. 53. A joint resolution to express the sense of the Congress that the President

should award a Presidential Unit Citation to the final crew of the U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS, which was sunk on July 30, 1945; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 247. A resolution to authorize testimony, document production, and representation of Member and employees of the Senate in *United States v. Jack L. Williams, et al*; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2157. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase the authorized funding level for women's business centers; to the Committee on Small Business.

##### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am delighted to join the Senator from Georgia, Senator CLELAND, in introducing legislation with him to expand the authorized level of the Small Business Administration's Women's Business Centers. I appreciate the leadership of the Senator from Georgia on this issue.

We must provide and over the last few years have provided strong support to help women business owners meet their greatest potential. I am happy to say this bill does just that. The additional funding that would be authorized in the bill will ensure that the SBA is going to achieve the goal of establishing the Women's Business Center in every single State by the year 1999. It will also be used to expand the existing very successful Women's Business Centers in the currently underserved areas of their States.

Just 10 years ago Congress established a demonstration program to help women-owned businesses gain access to capital and assistance, technical assistance, in business development. This program has proven to be a really remarkable success. It has served nearly 50,000 American women, business owners, through 54 sites in 28 States and the District of Columbia.

Women-owned businesses have made extraordinary gains over the past decade, and everyone in America is sharing the economic advantage that has resulted from their endeavors. Current calculations by the Small Business Administration indicate that women now own one-third of all U.S. firms—more than 8 million businesses. Women-owned businesses employ one out of every five U.S. workers, a total of 18.5 million employees, and more people than the Fortune 500 companies. Each year, women-owned businesses now