

EC-7268. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fairchild Aircraft, Inc. SA226 and SA227 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-CE-84-AD) received on September 29, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7269. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding airworthiness directives on SAFT America Inc. nickel cadmium batteries (Docket 97-CE-116-AD) received on September 29, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7270. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Industrie Model A320 Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-42-AD) received on September 29, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7271. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-77-AD) received on September 29, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7272. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320 Series Airplanes Equipped with a Bulk Cargo Door" (Docket 97-NM-192-AD) received on September 29, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7273. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers Model SD3-60 SHERPA Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-138-AD) received on September 29, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7274. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to strengthen law enforcement's ability to combat illegal bulk cash smuggling; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1480. A bill to authorize appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct research, monitoring, education and management activities for the eradication and control of harmful algal blooms, including blooms of *Pfiesteria piscicida* and other aquatic toxins (Rept. No. 105-357).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment:

S. 2120. A bill to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally-owned inventions (Rept. No. 105-358).

#### 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. GRAMS:

S. 2532. A bill for the relief of D.W. Jacobson, Ronald Karkala, and Paul Bjorgen of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 2533. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to improve the hydroelectric licensing process by granting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission statutory authority to better coordinate participation by other agencies and entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 2534. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2, (4-chlorophenol) -3ethyl-2, 5-dihydro-5-oxo-4-pyridazine carboxylic acid, potassium salt; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WARNER:

S. Res. 283. A resolution to refer H.R. 998 entitled "A bill for the relief of Lloyd B. Gamble" to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2532. A bill for the relief of D.W. Jacobson, Ronald Karkala, and Paul Bjorgen of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### PRIVATE RELIEF LEGISLATION

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, today I am introducing a private bill addressing an inequity faced by a now dissolved Minnesota company, Norwood Manufacturing, Incorporated.

Norwood entered into contract with the United States Post Office to produce mail pallets according to Postal Service specifications. After producing the pallets, the Post Office canceled the contract, indicating the pallets did not meet the intended use, even though Norwood met the specifications requirement in the contract.

Genuine issues of material fact surround the question of whether the Post Office canceled the contract for cause, convenience, or possibly in bad faith. Surprisingly, Norwood was denied its plea to be heard in court. Summary judgment was awarded to the Post Office, and an appeal of this decision was denied.

At this point, all avenues of relief have been exhausted, including my efforts in 1995 to request a Congressional Reference from the Judiciary Committee, back to the Claims Court for review.

In my view, an injustice has occurred since usual legal relief has been precluded in the history of this case. I believe compensation by the United

States is owed to Norwood. There is precedent for reimbursing companies which abide by contracts which either include errors, or when specifications change after a contract is signed and the company is not made aware of these changes. The Postal Service made an error, and it should have reimbursed this company, as is normal practice.●

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 2533. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to improve the hydroelectric licensing process by granting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission statutory authority to better coordinate participation by other agencies and entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HYDROELECTRIC LICENSING PROCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill, and I send it to the desk.

Mr. President, the bill I introduce is the Hydroelectric Licensing Process Improvement Act of 1998. As its title suggests, the purpose of the bill is to improve the process by which hydroelectric projects are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Under the existing law, non-federal dams that are constructed across navigable streams in the United States must be licensed by the FERC. In addition, under the present law, certain federal agencies, such as the United States Forest Service and the Departments of Commerce and Interior, have authority to mandate that FERC accept certain conditions in the license FERC ultimately issues. The Departments, for example, can impose conditions that address fish passage. The federal land agencies can impose conditions to protect federal land impacted by the project. FERC licenses, then, often contain conditions imposed by federal resource agencies.

These agencies, however, through no fault of their own, are single issue agencies. The law limits their considerations to a narrow spectrum of concerns as they decide mandatory conditions. Experience shows by the use of this licensing process that these decisions that are made by these agencies are very narrow. You could say narrow minded. Why? Because they are single-issue agencies. And the law now dictates that they operate only in that realm in their decisionmaking. We do not have to settle for bad decision-making simply because oftentimes the information that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission gets, or the information they are dictated to by these single-purpose agencies, would result in bad decisionmaking. By adjusting this law, we can, I believe, have a better decisionmaking process. I will say that this is clearly the intent of the legislation that I am introducing today.

Now, Mr. President, these licenses for the dams can be for as little as 30 years