By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 1693. A bill to protect the Social Security surplus by requiring a sequester to eliminate any deficit; to the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

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 (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 196. A resolution commending the submarine force of the United States Navy on the 100th anniversary of the force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BULLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1686. A bill to provide for the conveyances of land interests to Chugach Alaska Corporation to fulfill the intent, purpose, and promise of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

CHUGACH ALASKA NATIVES SETTLEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1999

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President. This morning I rise to introduce legislation to implement a settlement agreement between the Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC) and the United States Forest Service. This legislation will fulfill a long overdue commitment of the Federal government made to certain Alaska Natives.

I am terribly troubled and disappointed that Congress must once again step in to secure promises to Alaska Natives that at best have been unnecessarily delayed by this Administration and at worst have been trampled by them.

This legislation will accomplish three goals:

It will direct the Secretary of Agriculture to, not later than 90 days after enactment, grant CAC the access rights they were granted under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

It will return to CAC cemetery and historical sites they are entitled to under section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

It will require the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate the development, maintenance, and revision of land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System in Alaska with the plans of Alaska Native Corporations for the utilization of their lands which are intermingled with, adjacent to, or dependent for access upon National Forest System lands.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to section 1430 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the State of Alaska, and the CAC, were directed to study land ownership in and around the Chugach Region in Alaska. The purpose of this study was twofold. The first purpose was to provide for a fair and just settlement of the Chugach people and realizing the intent, purpose, and promise of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act by CAC. The second purpose was to identify lands that, to the maximum extent possible, are of like kind and character to those that were traditionally used and occupied by the Chugach people and, to the maximum extent possible, those that provide access to the coast and are economically viable.

On September 17, 1982, the parties entered into an agreement now known as the 1982 Chugach Natives, Inc. Settlement Agreement that set forth a fair and just settlement for the Chugach people pursuant to the study directed by Congress. Among the many provisions of this agreement the United States was required to convey to CAC not more than 73,308 acres of land in the vicinity of Carbon Mountain. The land eventually conveyed contained significant amounts of natural resources that were inaccessible by road. A second major provision of the Settlement Agreement granted CAC rights-of-way across Chugach National Forest to their land and required the United States to also grant an easement for the purpose of constructing and using roads and other facilities necessary for development of that tract of land on terms and conditions to be determined in accordance with the Settlement Agreement. It is obvious that without such an easement the land conveyed to CAC could not be utilized or developed in a manner consistent with the intent of Congress as expressed in ANILCA and ANCSA.

More than seventeen years after the Settlement Agreement was signed the much needed easement still has not been granted and CAC remains unable to make economic use of their lands. It seems absurd to me that Congress passed a Settlement Act for the Benefit of Alaska Natives; then the federal government entered into a Settlement Agreement to implement that Act where the CAC was concerned; and today, we find ourselves once again in a position of having to force the government to comply with these agreements.

I have spoken directly to the Chugach Forest Supervisor, the Regional Forester, and to the Chief of the Forest Service about this issue. Just last month I facilitated a meeting between the Forest Service and CAC to work out final details. While the parties thought they had an agreement in principle it fell apart once it reached Washington, D.C. Therefore, I find it necessary to once again have Congress rectify inaction on behalf of the Forest Service.

It is my intent to hold a hearing on this issue in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee as soon as possible.●

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1687. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to authorize appropriations for the Federal Trade Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Federal Trade Commission Reauthorization Act. The bill will authorize funding for the Commission for fiscal years 2001 and 2002. The measure sets spending levels at $149 million in FY 2001 and increases that amount for inflation and mandatory pay benefits to $156 for FY 2002.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has two primary missions: (1) the prevention of anticompetitive conduct in the marketplace; and (2) the protection of consumers from unfair or deceptive acts or practices. The Commission accomplishes its anticompetitive mission primarily through premerger reviews under that Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. Under that Act, merger and acquisitions of a specified size are reviewed for anticompetitive impact. During the 1990's, the number of mergers that met these size requirements tripled. This has placed an increased burden on the Commission.

Additionally, the Commission pursues claims of unfair or deceptive practices or acts—essentially fraud. As electronic commerce on the Internet increases, fraud will certainly increase with it and the FTC should and will play a role in protecting consumers on the Internet, as they do in the traditional market place. The Commission's performance of these dual missions is vital to the protection of consumers.

The Commission was last reauthorized in 1996. That legislation provided for funding levels of $107 million in FY 1997 and $111 million in FY 1998. The bill I introduce today increases the previous authorization by $37 million. In general, the increase is necessary to meet the rising number of merger reviews under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act and to protect consumers in the expanding world of e-commerce. According to the Commission's justification, the new authorization would fund 25 additional employees to work on merger and Internet issues. It will also help the Commission upgrade its computing facilities and fund increased consumer education activities.

The authorization, however, does not provide for the full amount requested by the Commission. In a recent request, the Commission asked for $176 million in FY2002. While I agree the Commission plays an important role in protecting consumers, their request represents more than a 50% increase in their authorization over a four-year period. At this point, I am not convinced that such a dramatic increase is warranted.

As we move through the authorization process, I look forward to hearing further from the FTC as to why such