

EC-412. A communication from the Secretary of the Division of Investment Management, Office of Disclosure Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment Company Names" (RIN3235-AH11) received on January 17, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-413. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Discontinuation of the Section 221(d)(2) Mortgage Insurance Program" ((RIN2502-AH50)(FR-4588-F-02)) received on January 23, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-414. A communication from the Secretary of the Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Mutual Fund After-Tax Returns" (RIN3235-AH77) received on January 23, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-415. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determining Adjusted Income in HUD Programs Serving Persons with Disabilities: Requiring Mandatory Deductions for Certain Expenses; and Disallowance for Earned Income" ((RIN2501-AC72)(FR-4608-F-02)) received on January 23, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-416. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relating to lifting and modifying measures with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-417. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the prohibition of importing rough diamonds from Sierra Leone; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INOUE, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. REED, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 177. A bill to amend the provisions of title 19, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 178. A bill to permanently reenact chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, relating to family farmers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 179. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase in a full estate tax deduction for family-owned business inter-

ests and to increase the unified credit exemption; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 180. A bill to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 181. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the taxation of social security benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 182. A bill to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the microloan program; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 183. A bill to enhance Department of Education efforts to facilitate the involvement of small business owners in State and local initiatives to improve education; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 184. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate good time credits for prisoners serving a sentence for a crime of violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 185. A bill to provide incentives to encourage stronger truth in sentencing of violent offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 186. A bill to provide access and choice for use of generic drugs instead of nongeneric drugs under Federal health care programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 187. A bill to establish the position of Assistant United States Trade Representative for Small Business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, 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.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 188. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 189. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 190. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to grant the Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to regulate tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 191. A bill to abolish the death penalty under Federal Law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 192. A bill to amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to consumer credit transactions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 178. A bill to permanently reenact chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, relating to family farmers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today along with Senators HARKIN, FEINGOLD, CONRAD, and DORGAN to introduce legislation that would make permanent Chapter 12 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Chapter 12, the Chapter of the Bankruptcy Code designated for farmers, provides critical protection for family farmers who find themselves in desperate economic circumstances. Ideally, the goal of federal farm policy should be to sustain the ability of family farmers to produce and sell a competitive product, to preserve healthy and viable rural communities and to keep family farmers out of bankruptcy. However, when farmers are forced to seek bankruptcy protection, Chapter 12, because it is tailored specifically to farmers, often allows the farmer to keep his or her farm while reorganizing debt and making payments to creditors.

Extension of Chapter 12 is made all the more urgent by the current state of the farm economy. Prices are now so low that many family farmers are lucky to stay in business as market prices are lower than their cost of production. The value of field crops is expected to have been more than 24 percent lower in 2000 than it was in 1996—42 percent lower for wheat, 39 percent lower for corn, and 26 percent lower for soybeans. But farmers' expenses are not falling by the same amount. In fact, they are not falling at all. Farmers cannot maintain cash flow if their selling prices are falling through the floor while their buying prices are shooting through the roof.

Chapter 12 expired on June 30th of last year. Efforts last year to extend it or to make it permanent were held hostage to controversial bankruptcy "reform" legislation and, as a result, Congress adjourned in December without taking any action to reinstate this critical safety net. This legislation would make Chapter 12 a permanent part of the code, eliminating the need for future extensions. It is also retroactive to July 1, 2000.

I hope that in the 107th Congress we can stop using farmers as pawns in the debate over bankruptcy reform. Permanent Chapter 12 is completely non-controversial. We could pass this bill by unanimous consent tomorrow, and we should. I note that a nearly identical measure has been introduced in the House by Congressman NICK SMITH. Given that the House last year passed two chapter 12 extensions which the Senate declined to act on, if the Senate this year took leadership on this issue and passed this bill, the House would swiftly follow. Farmers have been