PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that David Azaria and Rachael Creswell of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dane Balker, Senator WEBB's national security detainee, be given floor privileges for the duration of this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Major Thomas Rogers, a Department of Defense fellow in Senator PETE DOMENICI's office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the debate on the fiscal year 2008 Defense authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18 (LEGISLATIVE DAY OF JULY 17), 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 980. An act to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

H.R. 2641. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 205(a) of the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–554), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation: Upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader: Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon, and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader: Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2641. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2585. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, the report of draft legislation intended ''to establish a program to revitalize rural multi-family housing''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2586. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the obligations and outlays of fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006 funds under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through September 30, 2006; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–2587. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert R. Blackman, Jr., United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2588. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the remaining obstacles to the circulation of $1 coins; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2589. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Information Returns Required with Respect to Certain Foreign Corporations'' ((RIN1545-BG11)(TD 9338)) received on July 17, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2590. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualified Zone Academy Bonds; Obligations of States and Political Subdivisions'' ((RIN1545-BG44)(TD 9339)) received on July 17, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2591. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve and Other Miscellaneous Issues'' (RIN2900-AM50) received on July 17, 2007; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–168. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Ohio urging Congress to pass legislation establishing a Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research Clearinghouse in the National Archives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, Because of slavery and discrimination, African Americans have been denied many of the benefits of citizenship that produce traceable documentation; and

Whereas, researching one's genealogy through old records and documents is an arduous task even when the information is readily available, and for African Americans, researching their genealogies and making a connection to their past is even more difficult because the relevant records often have not been properly maintained; and

Whereas, access to better organized documents relevant to servitude and emancipation will assist African Americans in search their family histories, of which, because of slavery and segregation, are almost impossible to find in common registers and census records; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in the 110th Congress to establish a Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research Clearinghouse (SEARCH) in the National Archives and to authorize appropriations to establish and fund the national archives database of historic records regarding servitude and emancipation; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 127th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Congress of the United States to pass the legislation that has been introduced to establish a Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research Clearinghouse in the National Archives; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, and to the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation.

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. THUNE:

S. 1809. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that distributions from an individual retirement plan, a section 401(k) plan, a section 403(b) contract, or a section 457 plan shall not be includible in gross income to the extent used to pay long-term care insurance premiums; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 1810. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 1811. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to assess and reduce the levels of lead found in child-occupied facilities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. BAYH):

S. 1812. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen mentoring programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.