

first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such bill be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

This message also announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as additional conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the House on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1059) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of the Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes: As additional conferees from the Committee on House Administration, for consideration of section 1303 of the Senate bill and modifications committed to conference: Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BOEHNER, and Mr. HOYER.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read twice and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2466. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 1386. An original bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to extend the authorization for trade adjustment assistance.

S. 1387. An original bill to extend certain trade preferences to sub-Saharan African countries.

S. 1388. An original bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences.

S. 1389. An original bill to provide additional trade benefits to certain beneficiary countries in the Caribbean.

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. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1383. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for individual savings accounts funded by employee and employer social security payroll deductions, to extend the solvency of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 1384. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic

acid education program to prevent birth defects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1385. A bill to require that jewelry boxes imported from another country be indelibly marked with the country of origin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. 1386. An original bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to extend the authorization for trade adjustment assistance; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

S. 1387. An original bill to extend certain trade preferences to sub-Saharan African countries; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

S. 1388. An original bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

S. 1389. An original bill to provide additional trade benefits to certain beneficiary countries in the Caribbean; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 1384. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

THE FOLIC ACID PROMOTION AND BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999. I would also like to thank my colleagues Senator BOND and Senator KOHL for cosponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Mr. President, each year over 8,000 infants die from birth defects. The loss of these children, who could have grown up to be community leaders, teachers, doctors, or lawyers, weighs heavily upon our society. In addition, each year over 2,500 babies born live with serious birth defects of the brain and spine, called neural tube defects, and over 50 percent of these cases are preventable. In 1991, research proved that if pregnant women take as little as 400 micrograms of B vitamin folic acid each day, 50 to 70 percent of all cases of these serious birth defects of the brain and spine, such as spina bifida, would be prevented. Unfortunately, this information is not widely known by the public. According to a Gallup Poll conducted for the March of Dimes, only 32 percent of women of childbearing age reported taking a multivitamin with folic acid on a daily basis.

We must broaden public awareness about the prevention of these crippling defects. For this reason, I have introduced the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999. This legislation authorizes \$20 million for the Centers for Disease Control

(CDC), in partnership with state and local public and private entities, to launch an education and public awareness campaign, conduct research to identify effective strategies for increasing folic acid consumption by women of reproducing age, and evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies.

Mr. President, this legislation is an effort to link great advances in research with everyday life. This life-saving information about the consumption of folic acid, which will prolong the health and well-being of women and infants, needs to be broadcast to families and individuals across the country. It is my firm belief that this legislation will be the vehicle to help bring this important message into every home in America.

I would like to take a moment to thank the March of Dimes for their involvement in this issue. Their work will be critical in getting this legislation passed and in helping spread the message of the benefits of folic acid. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 324

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to registration requirements for practitioners who dispense narcotic drugs in schedule IV or V for maintenance treatment or detoxification treatment.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to establish guidelines for the relocation, closing, consolidation, or construction of post offices, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase maximum taxable income for the 15 percent rate bracket, to provide a partial exclusion from gross income for dividends and interest received by individuals, to provide a long-term capital gains deduction for individuals, to increase the traditional IRA contribution limit, and for other purposes.

S. 782

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 782, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify the exception to the prohibition on the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications to require a health insurance issuer, health plan, or health care provider obtain an enrollee's or patient's