

drug coverage, getting, for example, these anticoagulant drugs that cost about \$1,000 a year, and seeing a savings as a result of the older person not having a stroke, of that person not incurring \$100,000 in expenses that would be involved in treating the stroke.

I was director of the Gray Panthers at home for about 7 years before I was elected to the Congress. Prescription drugs were important then. You would always hear from seniors that they want this coverage. But the prescriptions today are even more important because they can help keep seniors well. Prescriptions today, helping to lower blood pressure, helping lower cholesterol, are drugs that are going to help us hold costs down for the Medicare program.

As we all know, Medicare Part A, the hospital portion, the institutional portion of the program is particularly expensive, and these drugs today, if we can get decent Medicare coverage for the Nation's older people, will help us save some of the money that would otherwise be spent under Part A of the program when seniors incur these debilitating illnesses.

I intend, as I have done now on 12 occasions, to keep coming to the floor to urge seniors to send in copies of their prescription drug bills directly to us in the Senate in hopes we can get bipartisan action. I am very proud that the Snowe-Wyden funding plan got 54 votes, a majority of votes in the Senate already for going forward with a specific plan to fund this program, but I am sure colleagues have other ideas.

The distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee is here. He has been very involved in the question of Medicare. I was very honored when Senator MOYNIHAN, last week, spoke favorably about the SPICE legislation we have introduced. Colleagues have plenty of ideas on how to deal with it, but what is important is we go forward in a bipartisan way and not wait until after another election which is literally a year away.

In the hope the Senate will act in a bipartisan way, I intend to keep coming back to the floor to discuss this issue.

I yield the floor.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oregon for his terrific statement and his terrific work with our colleague from Maine on a very important piece of legislation. The President has said time and again, as have most of us, as the Senator from Oregon has pointed out, that we would never even think of designing a Medicare program today without having prescription drug coverage. It would be unthinkable, particularly because of the advances in science and technology which, at a minimal cost, help keep people well and out of hospitals and out of difficulty and pain and suffering. It would be cost-effective to the taxpayer.

I thank him and commit to him my intention to continue to work with him and with many Members on both sides of the aisle until we can resolve this problem and answer the legitimate needs and requests of our seniors in America.

BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, the Delaware bankruptcy court has come to fully understand the old adage that "the reward for a job well done is more work". Long recognized as one of the nation's quickest, most innovative and fairest, The Delaware corporate bankruptcy court's caseload has grown to the point that at least one additional judge is necessary. I want to commend a number of my congressional colleagues for joining with me to address this situation.

Yesterday, Senator GRASSLEY and Representative GEKAS held a joint hearing on the need for additional bankruptcy judges. Representative MIKE CASTLE was among those who testified at this hearing, and I understand he eloquently elaborated on Delaware's status as the busiest bankruptcy venue per judge in the nation.

Simply put, more capable judges are needed to tend to corporate bankruptcy cases in Delaware and a select number of other states. Realizing this, Senator PAUL COVERDELL has introduced S. 1830, to provide for the appointment of additional temporary bankruptcy judges. I, along with Senator BIDEN and a number of other Senators, have cosponsored this vital proposal.

I commend my fellow sponsors of this legislation as well as the chairmen of the subcommittees of jurisdiction for holding yesterday's hearing. I look forward to working with them on this important matter in the future.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, November 2, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,668,409,010,147.10 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-eight billion, four hundred nine million, ten thousand, one hundred forty-seven dollars and ten cents).

One year ago, November 2, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,539,037,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty-nine billion, thirty-seven million).

Five years ago, November 2, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,730,361,000,000 (Four trillion, seven hundred thirty billion, three hundred sixty-one million).

Ten years ago, November 2, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,864,778,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred sixty-four billion, seven hundred seventy-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, November 2, 1984, the Federal debt stood at

\$1,619,801,000,000 (One trillion, six hundred nineteen billion, eight hundred one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,048,608,010,147.10 (Four trillion, forty-eight billion, six hundred eight million, ten thousand, one hundred forty-seven dollars and ten cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA CONCERNING TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SEPARATION OF ISOTOPES OF URANIUM BY LASER EXCITATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 70

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the United States of America and Australia Concerning Technology for the Separation of Isotopes of Uranium by Laser Excitation, with accompanying annexes and agreed minute. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. (In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of Central Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, which includes a summary of the provisions of the Agreement and the views of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is also enclosed.

A U.S. company and an Australian company have entered into a contract jointly to develop and evaluate the commercial potential of a particular uranium enrichment process (known as the "SILEX" process) invented by the Australian company. If the commercial viability of the process is demonstrated, the U.S. company may adopt it to enrich uranium for sale to U.S. and foreign utilities for use as reactor fuel.

Research on and development of the new enrichment process may require transfer from the United States to Australia of technology controlled by the United States as sensitive nuclear technology or Restricted Data. Australia exercises similar controls on the transfer of such technology outside Australia. There is currently in force an Agreement Between the United States of America and Australia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed at Canberra July 5, 1979 (the "1979 Agreement"). However, the 1979 Agreement does not permit transfers of sensitive nuclear technology and Restricted Data between the parties unless specifically provided for by an amendment or by a separate agreement.

Accordingly, the United States and Australia have negotiated, as a complement to the 1979 Agreement, a specialized agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation to provide the necessary legal basis for transfer of the relevant technology between the two countries for peaceful purposes.

The proposed Agreement provides for cooperation between the parties and authorized persons within their respective jurisdictions in research on and development of the SILEX process (the particular process for the separation of isotopes of uranium by laser excitation). The Agreement permits the transfer for peaceful purposes from Australia to the United States and from the United States to Australia, subject to the nonproliferation conditions and controls set forth in the Agreement, of Restricted Data, sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities, to the extent that these relate to the SILEX technology.

The nonproliferation conditions and controls required by the Agreement are the standard conditions and controls required by section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 (NNPA), for all new U.S. agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation. These include safeguards, a guarantee of no explosive or military use, a guarantee of adequate physical protection, and rights to approve re-transfers, enrichment, re-processing, other alterations in form or content, and storage. The Agreement contains additional detailed provisions for the protection of sensitive nuclear

technology, Restricted Data, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities transferred pursuant to it.

Material, facilities, and technology subject to the Agreement may not be used to produce highly enriched uranium without further agreement of the parties.

The Agreement also provides that cooperation under it within the territory of Australia will be limited to research on and development of SILEX technology, and will not be for the purpose of constructing a uranium enrichment facility in Australia unless provided for by an amendment to the Agreement. The United States would treat any such amendment as a new agreement pursuant to section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act, including the requirement for congressional review.

Australia is in the forefront of nations supporting international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries. It is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the application of full-scope safeguards to its nuclear program. It subscribes to the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) Guidelines, which set forth standards for the responsible export of nuclear commodities for peaceful use, and to the Zangger (NPT Exporters) Committee Guidelines, which oblige members to require the application of IAEA safeguards on nuclear exports to nonnuclear weapon states. In addition, Australia is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, whereby it has agreed to apply international standards of physical protection to the storage and transport of nuclear material under its jurisdiction or control.

The proposed Agreement with Australia has been negotiated in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation, foreign policy, and commercial interests of the United States.

A consideration in interagency deliberations on the Agreement was the potential consequences of the Agreement for U.S. military needs. If SILEX technology is successfully developed and becomes operational, then all material produced by and through this technology would be precluded from use in the U.S. nuclear weapons and naval nuclear propulsion programs. Furthermore, all other military uses of this material, such as tritium production and material testing, would also not be possible because of the assurances given to the Government of Australia. Yet, to ensure the enduring ability of the United States to meet its common defense and security needs, the United

States must maintain its military nuclear capabilities. Recognizing this requirement and the restrictions being placed on the SILEX technology, the Department of Energy will monitor closely the development of SILEX but ensure that alternative uranium enrichment technologies are available to meet the requirements for national security.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

Because this Agreement meets all applicable requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended, for agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation, I am transmitting it to the Congress without exempting it from any requirement contained in section 123 a. of that Act. This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House International Relations Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 b., the 60-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 3, 1999.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:07 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 170. An act to require certain notices in any mailing using a game of chance for the promotion of a product or service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1801. An act to make technical corrections to various antitrust laws and to references to such laws.

H.R. 2513. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to acquire a building located in Terre Haute, Indiana, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3137. An act to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide for training of individuals a President-elect intends to nominate as department heads or appoint to key positions in the Executive Office of the President.

H.R. 3164. An act to provide for the imposition of economic sanctions on certain foreign persons engaging in, or otherwise involved in, international narcotics trafficking.

H.J. Res. 46. Joint resolution conferring status as a honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Zachary Fisher.