

services provided to certain medicare-eligible veterans.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the names of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] and the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] were added as cosponsors of S. 459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on private activity bonds.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] were added as cosponsors of S. 494, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the medicaid program.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, *supra*.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend part Y of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for a waiver of or reduction in the matching funds requirement in the case of fiscal hardship.

S. 531

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] were added as cosponsors of S. 531, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation.

S. 537

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the exemption amounts used to calculate the individual alternative minimum tax for inflation since 1993.

S. 562

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 562, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, coordinated effort to combat methamphetamine abuse, and for other purposes.

S. 575

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the names of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD] and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 575, a bill to redesignate the National School Lunch Act as the "Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act."

S. 595

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma

[Mr. NICKLES] was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a graduated response to shrinking domestic oil and gas production and surging foreign oil imports, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] and the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

SENATE RESOLUTION 19

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland [Mr. SARBANES] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 19, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in biomedical research should be increased by \$2,000,000,000 in fiscal year 2000.

SENATE RESOLUTION 53

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 53, a resolution to designate March 24, 1999, as "National School Violence Victims' Memorial Day."

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE ACT OF 1999

COCHRAN (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 69

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. WARNER) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 257) to state the policy of the United States regarding the deployment of a missile defense capable of defending the territory of the United States against limited ballistic missile attack; as follows:

On page 2, line 11, insert before the period at the end the following: "with funding subject to the annual authorization of appropriations and the annual appropriation of funds for National Missile Defense".

DORGAN AMENDMENTS NOS. 70-71

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. DORGAN submitted two amendments intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 257, *supra*; as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 70

On page 2, strike line 7 and all that follows and insert the following:

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to deploy as soon as is technologically possible an effective National Missile Defense system capable of defending the territory of the United States against limited ballistic missile attack (whether accidental, unauthorized, or deliberate); and

(2) that deployment of the system shall be carried out in a manner that—

(A) balances such deployment with the deployment or utilization of other measures to protect the United States against attack by weapons of mass destruction; and

(B) gives appropriate consideration to the cooperative relationship between the United States and Russia regarding a reduction in the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction.

AMENDMENT No. 71

On page 2, strike line 7 and all that follows and insert the following:

(a) POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM.—It is the policy of the United States to develop for potential deployment an effective National Missile Defense system capable of defending the territory of the United States against limited ballistic missile attack (whether accidental, unauthorized, or deliberate).

(b) POLICY FOR DEPLOYMENT OF NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM.—It is the policy of the United States to deploy a National Missile Defense system only if that system—

(1) is well managed, proven under rigorous and repeated testing, and cost-effective when assessed within the context of other requirements relating to the national security interest of the United States;

(2) is deployed in concert with a variety of additional measures to protect the United States against attack by weapons of mass destruction, including efforts toward arms reduction and weapons nonproliferation;

(3) enhances strategic stability; and

(4) is deployed in a manner that contributes to a cooperative relationship between the United States and Russia with respect to a reduction in the dangers to both countries posed by weapons of mass destruction.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 1999, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "Educating the Disadvantaged." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on Wednesday, March 17, 1999 in SR-328A at 8 a.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the current status of the federal crop insurance program and explore the various proposals to expand and/or restructure the program.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a Executive Session of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 1999, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430

of the Senate Dirksen Building. The Committee will consider S. 326, "Patient's Bill of Rights Act." For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 17, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 400, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 1999. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 202/224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Monday, March 15, 1999 beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on "Medical Records Privacy" during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 15, 1999, at 9 a.m.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF TUNISIA NATIONAL DAY AND UNITED STATES-TUNISIA RELATIONS

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to direct your attention to a milestone soon to be celebrated by one of America's oldest friends and allies. On March 20, 1999, Tunisia observes its National Day, the 43rd anniversary of freedom from foreign control.

Tunisians have many reasons to be proud of their progress during these last four decades. We as Americans should share that satisfaction, because we have important common values and a long history of strong, mutually beneficial relations.

In fact, when Tunisia was still governed by Pasha Bey of Tunis, as a unit of the Ottoman Empire, Tunisia became one of the first treaty partners of the newly independent United States. The two nations signed a "Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation" in 1797. The pact provided for "perpetual and constant peace" between the par-

ties. If all our treaties were as faithfully observed as this one, our foreign relations would be more serene.

Whether protecting Mediterranean shipping lanes against Barbary pirates, opposing the Nazi war machine in North Africa, or supporting Western interests during the Cold War, the U.S. could count on Tunisia. More than 30 years ago, Tunisia displayed great courage in urging other Arab nations to seek an equitable settlement with Israel. Tunisia later built on that pioneering stand by playing an important role as an honest broker at delicate points in the peace process.

You do not see many headlines or television footage about Tunisia. The reason is that news coverage of Africa and the Middle East is dominated by conflict, extremism, famine, and other calamities. Tunisia, by enviable contrast, is a quiet success. On a recent visit to Tunisia, Undersecretary of State, Stuart Eizenstat, called Tunisia a "model for developing countries." He was correct. During these last 43 years, Tunisia has built a stable, middle class society. Tunisia has adopted progressive social policies that feature tolerance for minorities, equal rights for women, universal education and a first-rate public health system, and avoided the pitfall of religious extremism that has tormented so many other developing nations.

Under President Ben Ali's leadership, Tunisia has undertaken political reforms toward political pluralism and become the first nation south of the Mediterranean to formally associate itself with the European Union.

These are only some of the accomplishments of this small, resilient, forward-looking nation. We should be mindful of this enviable record. We should also take satisfaction that, 43 years ago, the United States welcomed Tunisia's independence and provided both moral and financial support. If all our investments abroad paid such dividends, the world would be a more peaceful place.●

RAIL COMPETITION AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, since the early 1980's, Montana has been faced with a very serious transportation problem regarding the transportation of our grain and coal out of our state at reasonable prices and in a reasonable period of time.

Montana is a classic case of what happens to rail customers when you eliminate competitive transportation alternatives. Our rail rates go through the roof and our rail customers end up subsidizing rail rates in regions where competition is present. In a nutshell, our rail customers pay more for less service. The rail customers in regions with competitive alternatives pay less and receive more service.

Now, we're seeing the same thing happen in other regions around the nation. Montana has been down this road and I encourage my colleagues to look at the problems we face in Montana as a pre-cursor to what will happen in their states.

The Surface Transportation Board (STB), based on their deliberations over the McCarty Farms vs. Burlington Northern case, has indicated to the producer that BNSF's rates are not excessive. I am concerned that after 17 years of adjudication using the STB's decision making process, that process is flawed.

In the West, we have only two Class I railroads and in Montana, we have only one Class I railroad. Under today's deregulated environment, we have come full circle back to limited competition. Because of this lack of competition, Montana's producers pick up the tab for those who have competition.

Montana's shippers pay some of the highest rates in the world while our neighbors pay a significantly lower cost for transportation. In Montana, we are truly dependent on the railroads to transport bulk commodities that could not be efficiently transported by any other means.

Agricultural shippers are the most vulnerable to predatory marketing by monopolistic practices of railroads. The farm producer unlike every other industry we know of in America, cannot pass the freight costs on to anyone else, they must simply eat it.

We do not need to re-regulate the railroads; rather we need to restore the balance between rail customers and the railroads that Congress intended to achieve originally in the Staggers Rail Act of 1980. I look forward to working with my colleagues to restore the competitive balance in the rail transportation industry and level the playing field for our nation's rail customers.●

RECOGNITION OF YVONNE GELLISE, RSM

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Yvonne Gellise, who was awarded the Mary Maurita Sengelau, RSM, Award for Meritorious Service for 1997. This award is presented annually to a person "whose contributions to the healing ministry are in striking harmony with the works of Catherine McAuley, foundress and first Sister of Mercy."

Yvonne Gellise was born in Bay City, Michigan, the fifth and last child of Levy and Regina Gellise. An early experience with polio fostered her early determination that characterized her many efforts on behalf of the community. In 1995, Yvonne joined the Religious Sisters of Mercy and became Sister Yvonne Gellise. Since then, Sister Yvonne has served in several administrative positions in Mercy facilities in