

made, or warrant resignation from the audits engagement.

“(4) RESIGNATION OF AUDITOR.—If an independent auditor resigns from its engagement to audit the Federal Reserve System or the Board under paragraph (3), the auditor shall furnish to the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives, not later than 1 business day after such resignation, a copy of the report of the auditor (or documentation of any oral report given).

“(f) RECORDKEEPING.—To facilitate compliance with this section, the Board shall—

“(1) ensure that the books, records, and accounts of the Board are maintained and kept in sufficient detail to accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of assets;

“(2) devise and maintain a system of internal controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to maintain accountability for assets;

“(3) ensure that access to assets of the Board is permitted only in accordance with general or specific authorization of the Board; and

“(4) ensure that—

“(A) the recorded accountability for assets is compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals; and

“(B) appropriate action is taken with respect of any differences.

“(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than May 31 of each year, the Board shall make available all audits and reports required by this section to the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives.”.

“(b) FEDERAL RESERVE REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) CLARIFICATION OF FEE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 11A(b) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 248a(b)) is amended—

“(i) by redesignating paragraphs (7) and (8) as paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively; and

“(ii) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) transportation of paper checks in the clearing process;”.

(B) PUBLICATION OF REVISED SCHEDULE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall publish a revision of the schedule of fees required under section 11A of the Federal Reserve Act that reflects the changes made in the schedule in accordance with the amendments made by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

(2) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICABLE PRICING CRITERIA.—Section 11A(c) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 248a(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3)(A) In each fiscal year, fees shall be established for each service provided by the Federal reserve banks on the basis of all direct and indirect costs actually incurred (excluding the effect of any pension cost credit) in providing each of the services, including interest on items credited prior to actual collection, overhead, and an allocation of imputed costs, which takes into account the taxes that would have been paid and the return on capital that would have been provided had the services been provided by a private business firm.

“(B) The pricing principles referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be carried out with

due regard to competitive factors and the provision of an adequate level of such services nationwide.

“(C)(i) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Financial Services Modernization Act of 1999, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the Board shall conduct a comprehensive review of the methodology used to calculate the private sector adjustment factor pursuant to section 11A(c)(3), including a public notice and comment period.

“(ii) In conducting the review under clause (i), the Board shall publish in the Federal Register all elements of the methodology in use by the Board in the calculation of the private sector adjustment factor pursuant to section 11A(c)(3) provide notice and solicit public comment on the methodology, requesting commentators to identify areas of the methodology that are outdated, inappropriate, unnecessary, or that contribute to an inaccurate result in the calculation of the private sector adjustment factor.

“(iii) The Board shall—

“(I) publish in the Federal Register a summary of the comments received under this subparagraph, identifying significant issues raised; and

“(II) provide comment on such issues and make changes to the methodology to the extent that the Board considers to be appropriate.

“(iv) Not later than 30 days after the completion of each review under clause (i), the Board shall submit to Congress a report which shall include—

“(I) a summary of any significant issues raised by public comments relieved by the Board under this subparagraph and the relative merits of such issues; and

“(II) an analysis of whether the Board is able to address the concerns raised, or whether such concerns should be addressed by legislation.”.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS BY THE TALIBAN IN AFGHANISTAN

BOXER AMENDMENT NO. 305

Mr. GRAMM (for Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to the resolution (S. Res. 68) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the treatment of women and girls by the Taliban in Afghanistan; as follows:

On page 3, line 4, strike “the” and insert “any”.

BOXER AMENDMENT NO. 306

Mr. GRAMM (for Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to the preamble to the resolution, S. Res. 68, supra; as follows:

Amend the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas millions of women and girls living under Taliban rule Afghanistan are denied their basic human rights;

Whereas according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Taliban continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in gross violation of internationally accepted norms;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State Country Report on

Human Rights Practices (hereafter “1998 State Department Human Rights Report”), violence against women in Afghanistan occurs frequently, including beatings, rapes, forced marriages, disappearances, kidnappings, and killings;

Whereas women and girls under Taliban rule are generally barred from working, going to school, leaving their homes without an immediate male family member as chaperone, and visiting doctors, hospitals or clinics;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, gender restrictions by the Taliban continue to interfere with the delivery of humanitarian assistance to women and girls in Afghanistan;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, under Taliban rule women are forced to don a head-to-toe garment known as a burqa, which has only a mesh screen for vision, and many women found in public not wearing a burqa, or wearing a burqa that does not properly cover the ankles, are beaten by Taliban militiamen;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, some poor women under Taliban rule cannot afford the cost of a burqa and thus are forced to remain at home or risk beatings if they go outside the home without one;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, the lack of a burqa has resulted in the inability of some women under Taliban rule to get necessary medical care because they cannot leave home;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, women under Taliban rule reportedly have been beaten if their shoe heels click when they walk;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, under Taliban rule women in homes must not be visible from the street, and houses with female occupants must have their windows painted over;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, under Taliban rule women are not allowed to drive, and taxi drivers reportedly have been beaten if they take unescorted women as passengers;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, women under Taliban rule are forbidden to enter mosques or other places of worship; and

Whereas women and girls of all ages under Taliban rule have suffered needlessly and even died from curable illness because they have been turned away from health care facilities because of their gender: Now, therefore, be it

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday May 5, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be: (1) To consider the nomination of Thomas J. Erickson to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; and (2) to discuss agricultural trade options.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, May 4, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. in open session, to consider the nomination of Ms. Carolyn L. Huntoon to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet on Wednesday, May 5, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. on pending committee business.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 5, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on damage to the national security from Chinese espionage at DOE nuclear weapons laboratories.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a hearing to receive testimony from Timothy Fields, Jr., nominated by the President to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response of the Environmental Protection Agency Wednesday, May 5, 9:00 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, The finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, May 5, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 5, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT., Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Govern-

mental Affairs Committee be permitted to meet on Wednesday, May 5, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. for a hearing on the State of Federalism.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate Wednesday May 5, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an Oversight Hearing on Tribal Priority Allocations. The Hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 5, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on: "Department of Justice Oversight."

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 5, 1999, at 3:00 p.m. to hold a closed markup.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 5, 1999, to conduct a hearing on "The Financial Institutions Insolvency Improvement Act of 1999."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 5, 1999, at 3:00 p.m., in closed session, to receive testimony on Submarine Warfare in the 21st century.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it is with pleasure that I join Chairman MCCAIN and Senators HUTCHISON and INOUE to introduce the Maritime Administration Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000. This legislation is critical for the continuation of a modern commercial fleet owned and oper-

ated by U.S. citizens and crewed by American seafarers. It also ensures America's economic competitiveness and national security.

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) reauthorization continues very important programs, and is a much broader piece of legislation than in past years. For example, it provides the funding for the Title XI Loan Guarantee Program, a truly national and international program. Title XI shipowners, their operation and their supplier base, cover almost every state in this country. Title XI has been vital in assisting our shipyards in competing internationally. U.S. shipyards are attracting foreign interests and winning orders for many vessel types. The bill also contains technical amendments to the Title XI program which will save time and money for both the Government and those applying for a loan guarantee. It also provides the funds for the operation of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York and continuing assistance to six State maritime academies. These students are the future of country and our merchant marine.

This bill also recognizes the importance of the merchant marine to our national security by its support for the recently-enacted Maritime Security Program (MSP), a modern commercial fleet available to provide critical support to the Department of Defense during war or national emergency. This year's reauthorization also contains provisions which aim to strengthen our U.S.-flag fleet through a much needed infusion of new tonnage by eliminating the three-year wait that a newly-registered bulk or breakbulk vessel must currently wait to carry preference cargo. This opportunity, which would end in one year or upon enactment of the OECD Shipbuilding Agreement, would not just improve the vessel profile of this fleet, but also add U.S. jobs. Vessels allowed to enter the preference trade would be required to perform shipyard repairs and other work necessary to bring them up to U.S.-flag standards in our own U.S. shipyards.

Funding is also provided for two new programs, enacted by the last Congress. Under the American Fisheries Act, MARAD will determine compliance with citizenship standards for certain fishing vessels, assisting in proper management and conservation of an important natural resource of our country. The agency is also developing a uniform process for the administrative waiver of the U.S.-built requirement for participation in the Jones Act trade for certain small passenger vessels, so that specific legislation need not be sought each time such a waiver is needed.

Mr. President, MARAD's FY 2000 budget recognizes the importance of sealift readiness and a strong U.S.-flag fleet. It acknowledges the need for a