CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE  June 7, 1999

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 1167. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and for other purposes, to the committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the “Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act.” This act authorizes the U.S. Mint to produce a commemorative coin honoring the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This is a bill I introduced in the last Congress and which had the support of 43 other Senators. The bill is a companion to one that has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman BEREUTER.

I am introducing this legislation to ensure that one of America’s finest moments will be forever memorialized. The Lewis and Clark Expedition, called the Corps of Discovery, represents the finest in American history. The Expedition began in 1803 when President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the exploration of the newly purchased Louisiana Territory and ended in 1806 with the Expedition’s triumphant return.

When considering why we should commemorate the Expedition, it’s important to recall Thomas Jefferson’s vision of America’s future and his dedication to expanding not only our geographic frontiers, but the frontiers of knowledge as well. Jefferson’s vision is epitomized by his commissioning of the Expedition. Further, the Expedition represents a hallmark for peaceful diplomacy, as demonstrated by the friendly relations the Expedition established with the Native Americans it encountered on its journey. These are a few of the many valuable lessons from the Expedition that we should carry forward into the future.

The minting of the Lewis and Clark Commemorative Coin was endorsed in the 1998 recommendations of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee (CCCAC), which was established by the 102nd Congress. If, as expected, the coin sells out, approximately $5 million would be available to help fund bicentennial celebrations. After the Treasury Department has recovered all costs of minting this coin, two-thirds of the surplus revenue would be available for the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council’s commemorative activities.

The Council is an outgrowth of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, which was created in 1969 to continue the work of the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission, established by Congress in 1964. The remaining one-third of the surcharge will be donated to the National Park Service to help offset costs associated with their planned activities to commemorate the bicentennial.

I feel confident that, with the support of my Senate colleagues and the passage of this bill, we can appropriately celebrate a vibrant and historically significant event.

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire:

S.J. Res. 27. A joint resolution disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of the People’s Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

Disapproval on Trade Benefits for China

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire:

S.J. Res. 28. A joint resolution disapproving the extension of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam; to the Committee on Finance.

Disapproval on Trade Benefits for Vietnam

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise to introduce two resolutions concerning our trade relationships with the People’s Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Last Thursday, June 3, 1999, the President of the United States formally recommended waivers of the application of the Trade Act of 1974 provisions with respect to China and Vietnam, thereby allowing U.S. tax dollars to subsidize business operations in these countries. In the case of China, the waiver also allows for continuation of most-favored-nation trade privileges, normally extended to our closest trading partners.

Mr. President, there’s very little that is normal about our relationship with these communist countries. In short, I think the President’s policy is seriously flawed and deeply troubling, especially in view of recent events.

Mr. President, on November 26, 1974, in its report on the Trade Act, the Senate Committee on Finance stated: “The Committee recognizes that segments of the private sector wish the U.S. Government to provide credits and investment guarantees, and other conditions before private capital investments are ventured. The Committee believes that it is equally reasonable to establish conditions on all basic human rights, including the right to emigrate, before extending broad concessions to communist countries.” The resolutions I have introduced keep faith with the original Congressional intent of the Trade Act of 1974. One need only read the annual State Department Human Rights Reports on China and Vietnam to recognize that they have failed to meet any recognized standards with respect to human rights. Moreover, there are a myriad of other national security and foreign policy issues concerning our current relationship with Beijing and Hanoi—from wholesale espionage of our nuclear secrets to POW/MIA accounting—which warrant support for my resolutions. We should not be putting profit over principle. These waivers from the President should be overturned by the Congress, using the procedures provided for by law. Thank you, Mr. President.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 115

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 115, a bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds.

S. 161

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 161, a bill to provide for a transition to market-based rates for power sold by the Federal Power Marketing Administrations and the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 222

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 222, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 285

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 285, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to reform unfair and anticompetitive practices in the professional boxing industry.

S. 335

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr.
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INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE A CREDIT AGAINST INCOME TAX TO INDIVIDUALS WHO REHABILITATE HISTORIC HOMES OR WHO ARE THE FIRST PURCHASERS OF REHABILITATED HISTORIC HOMES FOR USE AS A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.

S. 745

At the request of Mr. Abraham, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Voinovich) was added as a cosponsor of S. 745, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to modify the requirements for implementation of an entry-exit control system.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. Thompson, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Hagel) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for analysis of major rules, to promote the public's right to know the costs and benefits of major rules, and to increase the accountability of quality of Government.

S. 747

At the request of Mr. Rockefeller, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Biden) was added as a cosponsor of S. 747, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for Medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. Kerry, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Inouye) was added as a cosponsor of S. 791, a bill to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. Duren, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide for the establishment and operation of asthma treatment services for children, and for other purposes.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. DeWine, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. Hutchison) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study of the mortality and adverse outcome rates of medicare patients related to the provision of anesthesiology services.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. Breaux, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Kerrey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent motor fuel excise taxes on railroad and inland waterway transportation which remain in the general fund of the Treasury.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. Graham, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kerry) was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group health plans and health insurance issuers provide women with adequate access to providers of obstetric and gynecological services.

S. 918

At the request of Mr. Kerry, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. Bennett), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Enzi), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Torricelli) were added as cosponsors of S. 918, a bill to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide financial and business development assistance to military reservists' small business, and for other purposes.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. Nickles, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Allard) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill entitled the 'Federal Royalty Certainty Act'.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. Wyden, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Dodd) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to promote access to health care services in rural areas.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. Jeffords, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to provide conservation of great apes by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of countries within the range of great apes and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of great apes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. Hatch, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. Hutchison) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to more accurately codify the depreciable life of semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. Abraham, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Chafee) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to provide small business certain protections from litigation excesses and to limit the product liability of non-manufacturer product sellers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 59

At the request of Mr. Lautenberg, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Ashcroft), the Senator from
Hawaii (Mr. Inouye), and the Senator from New York (Mr. Moynihan) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 95, a resolution designating August 16, 1999, as “National Airborne Day.”

SENATE RESOLUTION 95

At the request of Mr. Thurmond, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Butterfield) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 95, a resolution designating August 16, 1999, as “National Airborne Day.”

SENATE RESOLUTION 96

At the request of Mr. Leahy, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Jeffords), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kerry), and the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 96, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding a peaceful process of self-determination in East Timor, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO DEDICATE A DAY OF LEARNING TO THE STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND THE FEDERALIST PAPERS

Mr. SESSIONS submitted the following concurrent resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Whereas the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787, and the ratification of the Bill of Rights in 1791 were principal events in the history of the United States;

Whereas these documents stand as the foundation of our form of democracy, providing at the same time the touchstone of our national identity and the vehicle for orderly growth and change;

Whereas the Federalist Papers embody an eloquent and forceful argument made in support of the adoption of our republican form of government;

Whereas the success of the American experiment requires that our Nation’s children—the future of its heritage and participants in its governance—have a firm knowledge of its principles and history; and

Whereas the nature of our government is the fundamental American concept of governance, because our system is based on the belief that power is granted by our Creator to the citizen who then voluntarily loans power to the state and because, as the Declaration of Independence states, “all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

1. State and local governments and local educational agencies are encouraged to dedicate at least one day of learning to the study and understanding of the significance of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; and

2. State and local governments and local educational agencies are encouraged to include a requirement that, before receiving a certificate or diploma of graduation from high school, students be tested on their competency in understanding the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

NEW MILLENNIUM CLASSROOMS ACT

ABRAHAM AND WYDEN AMENDMENT NO. 539

(ORDERED REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.)

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 542) which is the New Millennium Classrooms Act. The Abraham-Wyden amendment, recognizing this reality, requires an operating system to be installed on donated computers, guaranteeing complete, quality, ready-to-go equipment.

In addition, the Abraham-Wyden amendment would ensure that schools are not subjected to faulty or broken hardware. Without an operating system it is possible to tell if a donated computer is functioning properly. Sophisticated hardware can be easily damaged during transport or even when the donating company’s private files and documents are removed. With an operating system, donated computers, ascertaining the condition of the equipment is as simple as plugging it in and turning it on. Without the operating system, it could be weeks before the school is aware of any problems concerning the donation, burdening an already financially strapped school with added, and unnecessary, costs.

Mr. President, allow me to reiterate how important this technology is to our children’s future. By the year 2000, less than one year from now, more than 60 percent of all jobs in this country will demand high tech skills. Computers and the Internet continue to drastically change the face of business and communications on a global level, developing at a pace far surpassing what anyone predicted just a few years ago. With the passage of the New Millennium Classrooms Act, all our children will have a chance at succeeding in the new technological millennium.

I ask that the text of the letter of support from Microsoft for the New Millennium Classrooms Act be printed in the RECORD.

The letter is printed as follows:

MICROSOFT CORPORATION,
LAW AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS,

HON. SPENCER ABRAHAM,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR ABRAHAM: Microsoft supports your efforts, through the New Millennium Classrooms Act, to increase charitable contributions of personal computers to schools and other non-profit organizations. Microsoft appreciates the enormous needs in our nation’s schools for access to technology. We work closely with businesses, charitable organizations, and educators in an effort to increase the technology available in schools in order to create opportunities for learning by our children.

To help accomplish this goal, Microsoft supports efforts to stimulate the charitable