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 BERKELEY.

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. 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 in the late 1990s. 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 surcharge received 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 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 relations 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. taxdollars to subsidize business operations in these countries. In the case of China, the waiver also allows for continuation of most-favored-nation trade privileges, normal trade relations. 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 Delaware (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. ABRAMOFF, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICE) 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. LUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 222, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for a national standard to prohibit the operation of motor vehicles by intoxicated individuals.

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 38, United States Code, 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. ABRAMOFF) 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. McCaskill)