

States Code (as amended by this section), the General Accounting Office shall submit to the President and each house of Congress a final report on the operation of the program established under such section. The final report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the General Accounting Office, and any recommendation the General Accounting Office considers appropriate.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2 of the Semipostal Authorization Act is amended by striking subsections (b), (c), and (e).

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and the program under section 416 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by this section) shall be established not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-134, his appointment of Nancy Rutledge Connery, of Maine, to serve as a member of the Amtrak Reform Council, vice Joseph Vranich, of Pennsylvania, effective July 28, 2000.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 99-498, reappoints Charles Terrell, of Massachusetts, to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2000, effective July 28, 2000.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 106-173, announces the appointment of Frank J. Williams, of Rhode Island, to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, effective August 24, 2000.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-40, TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-41, TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-42, TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-43, TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-44

Mr. DOMENICI. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Injunction of Secrecy be removed from the following treaties and protocols transmitted to the Senate on September 5, 2000, by the President of the United States:

Treaty with Costa Rica on Return of Vehicles and Aircraft (Treaty Document No. 106-40); Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement (Treaty Document 106-41); Investment Treaty with Lithuania (Treaty Document No. 106-

42); Protocol Amending the 1950 Consular Convention with Ireland (Treaty Document No. 106-43); Treaty with Panama on the Return of Vehicles and Aircraft (Treaty Document No. 106-44).

I further ask consent that the treaties and protocols be considered as having been read the first time; that they be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's messages be printed in the RECORD.

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

The messages of the President are as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica for the Return of Stolen, Embezzled, or Appropriated Vehicles and Aircraft, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, signed at San Jose on July 2, 1999. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of stolen vehicle treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to eliminate the difficulties faced by owners of vehicles that have been stolen and transported across international borders. Like several in this series, this Treaty also covers aircraft. When it enters into force, this Treaty will be an effective tool to facilitate the return of U.S. vehicles and aircraft that have been stolen, embezzled, or appropriated and taken to Costa Rica.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 5, 2000.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to accession, the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks adopted at Madrid June 27, 1989, which entered into force December 1, 1995. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate are the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol and a February 2, 2000, letter from the Council of the European Union regarding voting within the Assembly established under the Protocol.

The Protocol will offer several major advantages to U.S. trademark owners. First, registration of trademarks internationally will be possible without obtaining a local agent and without filing an application in each Contracting Party. If the United States accedes to

the Protocol, the Protocol will provide a trademark registration filing system that will permit a U.S. trademark owner to file for registration in any number of Contracting Parties by filing a single standardized application in English, and with a single payment in dollars, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). The PTO will forward the application to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (respectively, the "International Bureau" and "WIPO"), which administers the Protocol. Second, under the Protocol, renewal of a trademark registration in each Contracting Party may be made by filing a single request with a single payment. These two advantages should make access to international protection of trademarks more readily available to both large and small U.S. businesses.

Third, the Protocol will facilitate the recording internationally of a change of ownership of a mark with a single filing. United States businesses experience difficulties effecting valid assignments of their marks internationally due to burdensome administrative requirements for recordation of an assignment in many countries. These difficulties can hinder the normal transfer of business assets. The Protocol will permit the holder of an international registration to record the assignment of a trademark in all designated Contracting Parties upon the filing of a single request with the International Bureau, accompanied by a single payment. To carry out the provisions of the Protocol, identical implementing legislation, which is supported by my Administration, was passed by the House of Representatives and introduced in the Senate.

Accession to the Protocol is in the best interests of the United States. Therefore, I recommend the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to accession, subject to the declarations described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 5, 2000.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annex and Protocol, signed at Washington on January 14, 1998. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Treaty.

The bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with Lithuania was the third such treaty signed between the United

States and a Baltic region country. The Treaty will protect U.S. investment and assist Lithuania in its efforts to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for U.S. private investment and thereby strengthening the development of its private sector.

The Treaty furthers the objectives of U.S. policy toward international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the computation and payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investments; freedom of investments from specified performance requirements; fair, equitable, and most-favored-nation treatment; and the investor's freedom to choose to resolve disputes with the host government through international arbitration.

I recommend that the Senate consider this Treaty as soon as possible, and give its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaty at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 5, 2000.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the Senate's advice and consent to ratification, the Protocol Amending the 1950 Consular Convention Between the United States of America and Ireland, signed at Washington on June 16, 1998. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol expands the scope of tax exemption under the 1950 Consular Convention Between the United States of America and Ireland to provide for reciprocal exemption from all taxes, including Value Added Taxes (VAT) on goods and services for the official use of the mission or for the personal use of mission members and families. The amendment will provide financial benefit to the United States, both through direct savings on embassy purchases of goods and services as well as through lowering the cost of living for United States Government employees assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Dublin.

Because the Protocol will achieve long-term tax exemption on the purchase of goods and services for our embassy and personnel in Ireland, I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 5, 2000.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratifica-

tion, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Vehicles and Aircraft, with Annexes, signed at Panama on June 6, 2000, and a related exchange of notes of July 25, 2000. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of stolen vehicle treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to eliminate the difficulties faced by owners of vehicles that have been stolen and transported across international borders. Like several in this series, this Treaty also covers aircraft. When it enters into force, it will be an effective tool to facilitate the return of U.S. vehicles and aircraft that have been stolen, robbed, or converted and taken to Panama.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 5, 2000.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE—S. 1608

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, with respect to the consent agreement relating to consideration of S. 1608, that time allowed for vitiation be extended to no later than 12 noon on Thursday, September 7.

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

REFERRAL OF H.R. 1102

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 1102 be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2000

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 6. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate then resume debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4444, the China legislation.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, when the Senate convenes at 9:30,

postcloture debate on the motion to proceed to the China legislation will resume. It is hoped that an agreement can be reached to begin debate on the substance of the bill during tomorrow's session in an effort to complete action on that by the end of this week.

The Senate will also continue debate on the energy and water appropriations bill during tomorrow evening's session with amendments expected to be offered.

As a reminder, the Senate will consider the China trade bill and the energy and water appropriations bill on a dual track each day this week with votes expected throughout the week.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator REID of Nevada.

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

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as always, I appreciate the hard work the chairman and his staff put into drafting this annual appropriations bill.

They have done an excellent job in pulling this bill together and I appreciate the cooperative manner with which he and his staff have worked with my staff. I also appreciate the consideration he has provided to the requests of all Members.

This subcommittee received over 1,000 requests from Members this year and majority and minority staff have combed through all of them.

As always, we are not able to accommodate as many of them as we would like, and, frankly, not even as many as we need to.

There are a great many things to like in this bill:

Solid funding for the programs to keep our nation's nuclear arsenal safe and secure.

Strong Army Corps and Bureau of Reclamation funding for work already underway.

First time funding for the Delta Regional Commission.

Also, for the first time in many years, the bill contains nearly full funding for the Solar and Renewable Energy programs.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. DOMENICI, for working with me to send some more resources to renewables.

We received a bipartisan letter, signed by 56 of our colleagues, requesting full funding for the Solar and Renewable accounts in this bill. I am delighted to report that we have come very close to doing so.