

two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4516) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

At 6:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4733) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon. That Mr. PACKARD, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. OBEY, be the managers of the conference on part of the House.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon. That Mr. WOLF, Mr. DELAY, Mr. REGULA, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. SABO, Mr. OLVER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. OBEY, be the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed today, September 14, 2000, by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND):

S. 1027. An act to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy, and for other purposes.

S. 1117. An act to establish the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park, in the vicinity of the city of Corinth, Mississippi, and in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes.

S. 1937. An act to amend the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to provide for sales of electricity by the Bonneville Power Administration to joint operating entities.

At 6:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1374. An act to authorize the development and maintenance of a multi-agency campus project in town of Jackson, Wyoming.

H.R. 1729. An act to designate the Federal facility located at 1301 Emmet Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Pamela B. Gwin Hall."

H.R. 1901. An act to designate the United States border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station."

H.R. 1959. An act to designate the Federal building located at 643 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center."

H.R. 4608. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 220 West Depot Street in Greeneville, Tennessee, as the "James H. Quillen United States Courthouse."

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4986. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the provisions relating to foreign sales corporations (FSCs) and to exclude extraterritorial income from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 327. Concurrent resolution honoring the service and sacrifice during periods of war by members of the United States merchant marine; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4942. An act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2090. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to establish the Coordinated Oceanographic Program Advisory Panel to report to the Congress on the feasibility and social value of a coordinate oceanography program.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 14, 2000, he had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1027. An act to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy, and for other purposes.

S. 1117. An act to establish the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park, in the vicinity of the city of Corinth, Mississippi, and in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes.

S. 1937. An act to amend the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to provide for sales of electricity by the Bonneville Power Administration to joint operating entities.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1534: A bill to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-412).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 701: A bill to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-413).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MILLER, Mr. DODD, Mr. FRIST, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LOTT, Mr. L. CHAFFEE, Mr. MACK, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. KYL, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GRAMS, and Mr. BUNNING):

S. 3045. A bill to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 3046. A bill to amend title II of the United States Code, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 3047. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the Lifetime Learning credit and provide an optional deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3048. A bill to institute a moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty at the Federal level until a Commission on the Federal Death Penalty studies its use and policies ensuring justice, fairness, and due process are implemented; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ASHCROFT, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3049. A bill to increase the maximum amount of marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments that an agricultural producer may receive during the 2000 crop year; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 3050. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the prospective payment system for skilled nursing facility services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 3051. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide greater access to affordable pharmaceuticals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3052. A bill to designate wilderness areas and a cooperative management and protection area in the vicinity of Steens Mountain in Harney County, Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMAS:

S. 3053. A bill to prohibit commercial air tour operations over national parks within the geographical area of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3054. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out pilot projects to increase the number of children participating in the summer food service program for children; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 3055. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the payments for certain physician pathology services under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MILLER, Mr. DODD, Mr. FRIST, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LOTT, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. MACK, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. KYL, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 3045. A bill to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PAUL COVERDELL NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on June 9, 1999, the late Senator Paul Coverdell introduced legislation aimed at addressing one of the most pressing problems facing law enforcement today: the critical backlogs in our state crime labs. Senator Coverdell's National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act of 1999 (S. 1196) attracted broad bipartisan support in Congress, as well as the enforcement of national law enforcement groups. Unfortunately, before Senator Coverdell's bill could move through Congress, he passed away.

As a fitting, substantive tribute to Senator Coverdell, I am today intro-

ducing the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act of 2000 to eliminate the crisis in forensics labs across the country. This was an issue he cared a great deal about, and I am honored to have the opportunity to carry on his efforts to address this problem.

The crisis in our forensics labs is acute. According to a report issued in February by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, as of December 1997, 69 percent of state crime labs reported DNA backlogs in 6,800 cases and 287,000 convicted offender samples. The backlogs are having a crippling effect on the fair and speedy administration of justice.

For example, the Seattle Times reported on April 23 of this year that police are being forced to pay private labs to do critical forensics work so that their active investigations do not have to wait for tests to be completed. "As Spokane authorities closed in on a suspected serial killer, they were eager to nail enough evidence to make their case stick. So they skipped over the backlogged Washington State Patrol crime lab and shipped some evidence to a private laboratory, paying a premium for quicker results. [A] chronic backlog at the State Patrol's seven crime labs, which analyze criminal evidence from police throughout Washington state, has grown so acute that Spokane investigators feared their manhunt would be stalled."

As a former prosecutor, I know how dependent the criminal justice system is on fast, accurate, dependable forensics testing. With backlogs in the labs, district attorneys are forced to wait months and years to pursue cases. This is not simply a matter of expediting convictions of the guilty. Suspects are held in jail for months before trial, waiting for the forensic evidence to be completed. Thus, potentially innocent persons stay in jail, potentially guilty persons stay out of jail, and victims of crime do not receive closure.

As an Alabama newspaper, the Decatur Daily, reported on November 28, 1999, "[The] backlog of cases is so bad that final autopsy results and other forensic testing sometimes take up to a year to complete. It's a frustrating wait for police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and even suspects. It means delayed justice for the families of crime victims." Justice delayed is justice denied for prosecutors, defendants, judges, police, and, most importantly, for victims. This is unacceptable.

Given the tremendous amount of work to be done by crime labs, scientists and technicians must sacrifice accuracy, reliability, or time in order to complete their work. Sacrificing accuracy or reliability would destroy the justice system, so it is time that is sacrificed. But with the tremendous pressures to complete lab work, it is perhaps inevitable that there will be prob-

lems other than delays. Everyone from police to detectives to evidence technicians to lab technicians to forensic scientists to prosecutors must be well-trained in the preservation, collection, and preparation of forensic evidence.

The JonBenet Ramsey case is perhaps the most well-known example of a case where forensics work is critical to convicting the perpetrator of a crime. As the Rocky Mountain News reported on February 2, 1997, "To solve the slaying of JonBenet Ramsey, Boulder police must rely to a great extent on the results of forensic tests being conducted in crime laboratories. [T]he looming problem for police and prosecutors, according to forensics experts, is whether the evidence is in good condition. Or whether lax procedures . . . resulted in key evidence being hopelessly contaminated."

We need to help our labs train investigators and police. We need to help our labs reduce the backlog so that the innocent may be exonerated and the guilty convicted. We need to help our labs give closure to victims of crime.

The bill I am introducing today is essentially a reintroduction of Senator Coverdell's National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act of 1999 (S. 1196). The bill expands permitted uses of Byrne grants to include improving the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services, including DNA, blood and ballistics tests. It requires States to develop a plan outlining the manner in which the grants will be used to improve forensic science services and requires States to use these funds only to improve forensic sciences, and limits administrative expenditures to 10 percent of the grant amount.

This new bill adds a reporting requirement so that the backlog reduction can be documented and tracked. Additionally, the funding is adjusted to begin authorizations in Fiscal Year 2001, rather than FY 2000, as S. 1196 did. Otherwise, this is the exact same bill Senator Coverdell introduced and that I and many of my colleagues supported.

This bill has the support of many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, including Senators CLELAND and MILLER from Georgia, Senators LOTT, NICKLES, HATCH, STEVENS, THURMOND, SHELBY, COCHRAN, KYL, WELLSTONE, DODD, GRAMS, DURBIN, FRIST, HELMS, SPECTER, SANTORUM, JEFFORDS, ABRAHAM, L. CHAFEE, MACK, BUNNING, ASHCROFT, HARKIN, and others. I also appreciate the strong support of Representative SANFORD BISHOP of Georgia, the primary sponsor of Senator Coverdell's bill in the House.

I spoke with Attorney General Reno last night, and she told me that she "supports our efforts to improve forensic science capabilities." She also told me that this bill "is consistent with the Department of Justice's approach to helping State and local law enforcement."