

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate disagree with the amendment of the House, agree to the request for a conference, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

The Presiding Officer (Mr. BENNETT) appointed Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mrs. BOXER conferees on the part of the Senate.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 3165

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I understand S. 3165 is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3165) to amend the Social Security Act to make corrections and refinements in the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP health insurance programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. MACK. I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 3173

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I understand S. 3173 is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3173) to improve the implementation of the environmental streamlining provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Mr. MACK. I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—H.R. 4292

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 4292 is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4292) to protect infants who are born alive.

Mr. MACK. I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
COMMERCIALIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce

Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 209 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 209) to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally-owned inventions.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4300

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, Senators EDWARDS, SHELBY, and SESSIONS have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) for Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. SESSIONS, proposes an amendment numbered 4300.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS OMBUDSMAN.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF OMBUDSMAN.—The Secretary of Energy shall direct the director of each national laboratory of the Department of Energy, and may direct the director of each facility under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy, to appoint a technology partnership ombudsman to hear and help resolve complaints from outside organizations regarding the policies and actions of each such laboratory or facility with respect to technology partnerships (including cooperative research and development agreements), patents, and technology licensing.

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—An ombudsman appointed under subsection (a) shall be a senior official of the national laboratory or facility who is not involved in day-to-day technology partnerships, patents, or technology licensing, or, if appointed from outside the laboratory of facility, function as such a senior official.

(c) DUTIES.—Each ombudsman appointed under subsection (a) shall—

(1) serve as the focal point for assisting the public and industry in resolving complaints and disputes with the national laboratory or facility regarding technology partnerships, patents, and technology licensing;

(2) promote the use of collaborative alternative dispute resolution technique such as mediation to facilitate the speedy and low-cost resolution of complaints and disputes, when appropriate; and

(3) report quarterly on the number and nature of complaints and disputes raised, along with the ombudsman's assessment of their resolution, consistent with the protection of confidential and sensitive information, to—

(A) the Secretary;

(B) the Administrator for Nuclear Security;

(C) the Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution of the Department of Energy; and

(D) the employees of the Department responsible for the administration of the contract for the operation of each national laboratory or facility that is a subject of the report, for consideration in the administration and review of that contract.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Senator EDWARDS' amendment establishes a Technology Partnership Ombudsman at De-

partment of Energy's National Laboratories. It is my understanding that the Ombudsman should promote the use of collaborative alternative dispute resolution techniques such as mediation to facilitate the speedy and low-cost resolution of complaints and disputes with industry partners. To ensure fairness and objectivity, however, it would be the Senator's intent that nothing in this Section be interpreted to empower the Ombudsman to act as a mediator or an arbitrator in the process.

Mr. EDWARDS. The Senator's understanding is correct. That is our intention.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 4300) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 209), as amended, was passed.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I want to speak for a few minutes on a conference report, a bill we have been working on all year, including a couple of other provisions that have now been added. We are ready to move forward with it. That is what the vote will address tomorrow.

I have put forward this bill on sex trafficking with Senator WELLSTONE. He and I don't get together on too many bills, so when we do, it is a bit noteworthy. We come from different perspectives, different viewpoints. I think we both have good hearts but our heads take us in different directions. But on this subject of stopping sex trafficking, we don't disagree. We have worked together all year to get this bill through which challenges this practice known as sex trafficking.

Throughout the world, globalization has a dark side. We are seeing increasing numbers of young women, even girls, being trafficked from poorer countries to richer countries into the prostitution business. They have been tricked, forced, coerced and defrauded into working as prostitutes against their will. There are about 700,000 women and girls, according to our Government's estimates, being moved each year from poorer countries to richer countries into the prostitution business. Our Government estimates that approximately 50,000 women and children are trafficked annually into the United States, primarily from Asia and Central America.

This is clearly a terrible practice. Many of these are young girls who are