

to law, a report relative to the national advisory committee on institutional quality and integrity for fiscal year 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-11778. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-11779. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-11780. A communication from the Assistant Secretary (Legal Affairs), Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Immigrant Religious Workers" (RIN4710-06) received on December 7, 2000; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-11781. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Business Size Standards; Health Care" (RIN3245-AE06) received on December 5, 2000; to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-11782. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Small Business Investment Companies, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Business Investment Companies; 'Cost of Money' Limitations" (RIN3245-AE49) received on December 5, 2000; to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-11783. A communication from the Chairman, Centennial of Flight Commission, in concurrence with the National Aeronautics Space Administration Administrator, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11784. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the alternative plan for federal employee locality-based comparability payments; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11785. A communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report for the period April 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11786. A communication from the Chair of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report for the period April 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11787. A communication from the Corporation for National Service, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report for the period April 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000 as well as a report on final action; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11788. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11789. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report for the period April 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11790. A communication from the Chairman of the National Science Board, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report for the period April 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11791. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report for the period April 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11792. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report for the period April 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11793. A communication from the Director of the Workforce Compensation and Performance Service, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pay Under the General Schedule; Locality-Based Comparability Payments" (RIN3206-AJ07) received on December 5, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11794. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor Federal Register Certifying Officer, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Claims Collection Standards" (RIN1510-AA57 and 1105-AA31) received on November 9, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Pursuant to a unanimous consent agreement of December 7, 2000, the Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged of the following nomination:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Richard N. Gardner, of New York, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

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. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 3275. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to guarantee loans to facilitate nuclear nonproliferation programs and activities of the Government of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. Res. 385. A resolution congratulating the Reverend Clay Evans of Chicago, Illinois, on the occasion of his retirement; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 386. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 3275. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to guarantee loans to facilitate nuclear nonproliferation programs and activities of the Government of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

FISSILE MATERIAL LOAN GUARANTEE ACT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Fissile Material Loan Guarantee Act. This Act is intended to increase the arsenal of programs that reduce proliferation threats from the Russian nuclear weapons complex.

This Act presents an unusual option, which I've been discussing with the leadership of some of the world's largest private banks and lending institutions and with senior officials of the Russian Federation's Ministry for Atomic Energy. I also am aware that discussions between Western lending institutions and the Russian Federation are progressing well and that discussions with the International Atomic Energy Authority or IAEA have helped to clarify their responsibilities.

This Act would enable the imposition of international protective safeguards on new, large stocks of Russian weapons-ready materials in a way that enables the Russian Federation to gain near-term financial resources from the same materials. The Act requires that these resources be used in support of non-proliferation or energy programs within Russia. It also requires that the materials used to collateralize these loans must remain under international IAEA safeguards forevermore.

This Act does not replace programs that currently are in place to ensure that weapons-grade materials can never be used in weapons in the future. The Highly Enriched Uranium or HEU Agreement is moving toward elimination of 500 tons of Russian weapons-grade uranium. The Plutonium Disposition Agreement is similarly working on elimination of 34 tons of Russian weapons-grade plutonium.

The HEU agreement removes material usable in 20,000 nuclear weapons, while the plutonium disposition agreement similarly removes material for more than 4,000 nuclear weapons. Both of these agreements enable the transition of Russian materials into commercial reactor fuel, which, after use in a reactor, destroys its "weapons-grade" attributes. There should be no question that both these agreements remain of vital importance to both nations.

But estimates are that the Russian Federation has vast stocks of weapons-