

EC-7725. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting a report relative to the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7726. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Analysis, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7727. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Chemicals Subject to the Toxic Substances Control Act" (RIN1515-AC04), received February 24, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7728. A communication from the Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation relative to Social Security; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7729. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Forage Production Crop Provisions; and Forage Seeding Crop Provisions", received February 24, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7730. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Administrative Regulations, Subpart-L Reinsurance Agreement-Standards for Approval; Regulations for the 1997 and Subsequent Reinsurance Years", received February 24, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7731. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act, the annual report for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7732. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to additions to the Procurement List, received February 24, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7733. A communication from the Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act, the annual report for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7734. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1999, through September 30, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7735. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-225, "Government Employer-Assisted Housing Amendment Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7736. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-262, "Transfer of Jurisdiction over Georgetown Waterfront Park for Public and Recreational Purposes, S.O. 84-230, Temporary Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7737. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Colum-

bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-250, "Department of Health Functions Clarification Temporary Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7738. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-254, "District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7739. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-256, "Retail Electric Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7740. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hurricane Floyd Property Acquisition and Relocation Grants; 65 FR 7270; 02/11/2000", received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7741. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Administration and Resources Management, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of an Acting Deputy Administrator and the nomination of a Deputy Administrator; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7742. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Armored Snail and Slender Campeloma" (RIN1018-AF29), received February 18, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7743. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Delisting of the Dismal Swamp Southeastern Shrew", received February 22, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7744. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the 'Sylvilagus bachmani riparius' (riparian Brush Rabbit) and 'Neotoma fuscipes Riparia' (riparian or San Joaquin Valley woodrat)" (RIN1018-AE40), received February 16, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7745. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "Use of Collected PM2.5 Data and Parameter Occurrence Codes"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7746. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "Lead-Based Paint Activities in Target Housing and Child-Occupied Facilities; State of California's Authorization Application"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7747. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and

Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "Limited Request for Pre-Proposals Pilot Projects on Improved Drinking Water Management and Source Protection in Honduras"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7748. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "Placement of Proceeds from CERCLA Settlements in Special Accounts"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7749. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Indiana" (FRL # 6538-5), received February 15, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7750. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Tennessee: Approval of 111(d) Plan for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills in Knox County" (FRL # 6539-6), received February 15, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7751. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Indiana" (FRL # 6538-5), received February 15, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7752. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Architectural Coatings" (FRL # 6539-2), received February 15, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7753. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendment: Requirements for Preparation, Adoption, and Submittal of State Implementation Plans" (FRL # 6540-1), received February 15, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-416. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Ship Bottom, NJ relative to the disposal of dredge materials at the Mud Dump site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-417. A petition from a citizen of the District of Columbia relative to the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

POM-418. A resolution adopted by the National Conference of Insurance Legislators Executive Committee relative to the Federalism Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

POM-419. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Assembly of San Juan, PR relative to Vieques, PR; to the Committee on Armed Services.

RESOLUTION 35

Whereas, The Municipal Assembly of San Juan approved a resolution the 29 of April of 1999 requiring the United States Navy to cease immediately and permanently all military practices, bombardments and exercises in Vieques, as well as their total withdrawal from that island, returning to the people of Puerto Rico the lands that the Navy now occupies.

Whereas, The Assembly recognizes that the military practices, exercises, and bombardments in Vieques and its surroundings have been continuous during the last 50 years, affecting the 9,300 residents of that Municipality negatively;

Whereas, In addition to the continuous threat to the safety, health and human life that these military exercises mean in Vieques, they have had a harmful effect on the environment as a whole and in particular, on marine life and the natural beauty of this island.

Whereas, In an historical effort of solidarity regarding the suffering of the people of Vieques, the political, religious, and civic leadership of Puerto Rico, came together with the purpose of calling for the immediate cease of all military exercises by the Navy on soil and beaches of Vieques and for the unconditional and immediate exit of the Navy from this island-municipality, and hereby petition President, Hon. William Jefferson Clinton to that effect.

Whereas, The Mayor of San Juan, Hon. Sila M. Calderón, has made a particular effort to this effect as have other Puerto Rican leaders in Puerto Rico and in the United States.

Whereas, President Clinton has received pressures from the Pentagon and certain congressional leaders favoring the permanency of the Navy on Vieques, and has disappointed the people of Puerto Rico who had placed their hope in him. President Clinton emitted a decision, which permits the Navy to continue with their war exercises in Vieques for approximately five years. This decision does not establish a specific date for the absolute and total exit of the Navy from Vieques.

Whereas, The action taken by President Clinton is unacceptable to this City Council, as it is for all the Puerto Rican people who are allied in brotherhood with the people of Vieques: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the San Juan City Council:

Section 1. To express strong rejection of the President of the United States, Hon. William Jefferson Clinton's decision on the case of Vieques; to support the actions accomplished by the Puerto Rican leadership and in particular by the people of Vieques, for the Navy to leave that territory as soon as possible without imposing conditions; to support the negotiations of the Mayor of San Juan, Hon. Sila M. Calderón, in connection with this matter; and to urge the members of congress and elected officials of New York and other states to join the people of Puerto Rico in this effort.

Section 2. To send a copy of this resolution, duly translated to the English Language, to the President of the United States, Hon. William Jefferson Clinton; to the Congress, and to the press.

Section 3. This resolution will come into effect immediately after its approval.

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. GRAMM (for himself, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. MACK):

S. 2107. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to reduce securities fees in excess of those required to fund the operations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to adjust compensation provisions for employees of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2108. A bill to provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2109. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to require local educational agencies and schools to implement integrated pest management systems to minimize the use of pesticides in schools and to provide parents, guardians, and employees with notice of the use of pesticides in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 2110. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payment of claims by health care providers against insolvent Medicare+Choice Organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2111. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey for fair market value 1.06 acres of land in the San Bernardino National Forest, California, to KATY 101.3 FM, a California corporation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KERRY, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2112. A bill to provide housing assistance to domestic violence victims; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. Res. 263. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should communicate to the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ("OPEC") cartel and non-OPEC countries that participate in the cartel of crude oil producing countries, before the meeting of the OPEC nations in March 2000, the position of the United States in favor of increasing world crude oil supplies so as to achieve stable crude oil prices; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL:

S. 2110. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payment of claims by health care providers against insolvent Medicare+Choice Organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

BANKRUPTCY OF PREMIER HMO

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise to bring to the attention of the Senate a serious problem facing many thousands of Medicare beneficiaries in Arizona. On November 16, 1999, Premier Health Care of Arizona went into receivership. The health care of more than 20,000 Medicare beneficiaries who were enrolled in Premier has been affected by this solvency.

Since Premier Medicare HMO was placed in receivership, I have been advised that some non-contract providers—providers outside of the HMO network—have asserted that Medicare beneficiaries are personally liable for unpaid claims and have referred the outstanding claims to collection agencies.

These unpaid claims—some of which may date back more than six months and amount to significant sums of money—have made it difficult for many contract and non-contract providers to continue to provide care to Medicare beneficiaries. Because Premier operated in a largely rural area where few alternative providers were accessible, this has created a dire health-care delivery situation for Medicare beneficiaries.

Mr. President, today I introduce legislation that addresses the Arizona situation, as well as future Medicare+Choice insolvencies, wherever they may occur. This legislation mandates that, after a Medicare+Choice goes into receivership, the receiver—in this case, the state insurance commissioner—may apply to the Secretary of HHS for payment of all valid, unpaid provider claims for items or services furnished to Medicare enrollees before the date the receiver was appointed.

Contract providers will be paid at their contract rate, while non-contract providers will be paid for the "reasonable cost" of the covered item or service. Amounts needed to make these payments will be paid out of the Part A or Part B trust fund, as is appropriate based on which fund would have paid the claim on a fee-for-services basis.

To recover these amounts paid to providers, the bill establishes that HCFA will become a creditor of the receivership estate and assumes the priority position of the respective providers it has paid.

The bill also mandates that Medicare+Choice enrollees may not be held liable to contract or non-contract