

Virginia relative to local television satellite signals; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, Current telecommunications legislation pending in the United States Congress will set national policy for decades to come for all Americans; and

Whereas, Current legislation will authorize the retransmission of local television signals by satellite; and

Whereas, Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) companies have testified before Congress that they only intend to retransmit certain local television broadcast signals within certain local television markets, those being highly populated urban markets where the infrastructure will support a for-profit venture; and

Whereas, More than fifty million households in small- and medium-sized markets must be treated as equals to their urban counterparts. These citizens pay the same taxes and deserve the same news, weather, emergency forecasts and community-building programs that larger urban areas will be receiving; and

Whereas, Sixteen states, including West Virginia, are not included in any satellite company's initial plans to provide "local-to-local" service; therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate*, That the Senate hereby urges the United States Congress to adopt legislation that will establish loan guarantee programs or other mechanisms for the delivery of local satellite signals to markets otherwise not receiving local satellite signals; and, be it

*Further resolved*, That the purposes of such national legislation will be to guarantee the delivery by satellite of over-the-air local television stations to small- and medium-sized markets to ensure the "digital divide" is not made wider by national satellite policy; and, be it

*Further resolved*, That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate for distribution to the members of each legislative chamber.

POM-435. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Alabama relative to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979, and became an international treaty on September 3, 1981; and

Whereas, the convention established a comprehensive framework addressing women's rights within political, cultural, economic, social, and family contexts that serves to strengthen the existing body of standards respecting fundamental human rights by providing a uniform and universal definition of discrimination; and

Whereas, the convention has already demonstrated its value by serving as the instrument by which women in Sri Lanka and Zambia have improved their status; and

Whereas, in 1992, Sri Lanka adopted a charter that was based on the convention and which guaranteed women equal status; in 1985, Zambia also ratified the convention and in 1991 extended its Bill of Rights to cover sex discrimination; and

Whereas, as of June 1997, 161 nations had ratified the convention's provisions; and

Whereas, although the United States is considered a world leader in the protection of basic human rights, supports and has a position of leadership in the United Nations, and was an active participant in the drafting and is a signatory of the convention, the United States is one of the few nations that has not ratified the treaty; and

Whereas, although women have made progress in the struggle for equality in the political, cultural, economic, social, and family contexts, there is much more to be accomplished; and through its support, leadership, and prestige, the United States can help create a world where women are no longer discriminated against and would achieve one of the most fundamental of human rights, that of equality; now therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Alabama*, That we urge the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and to support the convention's continuing goals.

*Be it further resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, and every member of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.

POM-436. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Alabama relative to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979, and became an international treaty on September 3, 1981; and

Whereas, the convention established a comprehensive framework addressing women's rights within political, cultural, economic, social, and family contexts that serves to strengthen the existing body of standards respecting fundamental human rights by providing a uniform and universal definition of discrimination; and

Whereas, the convention has already demonstrated its value by serving as the instrument by which women in Sri Lanka and Zambia have improved their status; and

Whereas, in 1992, Sri Lanka adopted a charter that was based on the convention and which guaranteed women equal status; in 1985, Zambia also ratified the convention and in 1991 extended its Bill of Rights to cover sex discrimination; and

Whereas, as of June 1997, 161 nations had ratified the convention's provisions; and

Whereas, although the United States is considered a world leader in the protection of basic human rights, supports and has a position of leadership in the United Nations, and was an active participant in the drafting and is a signatory of the convention; the United States is one of the few nations that has not ratified the treaty; and

Whereas, although women have made progress in the struggle for equality in the political, cultural, economic, social, and family contexts, there is much more to be accomplished; and through its support, leadership, and prestige, the United States can help create a world where women are no longer discriminated against and would

achieve one of the most fundamental of human rights, that of equality; now therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Alabama*, That we urge the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and to support the convention's continuing goals.

*Be it further resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, and every member of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of March 9, 2000, the following report of committee was submitted on March 15, 2000:

By Mr. GRAMM, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2097: A bill to authorize loan guarantees in order to facilitate access to local television broadcast signals in unserved and underserved areas, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-243).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 408. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a former Bureau of Land Management administrative site to the City of Carson City, Nevada, for use as a senior center (Rept. No. 106-244).

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

S. 1218. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue to the Landusky School District, without consideration, a patent for the surface and mineral estates of certain lots, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-245).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 14) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States (Rept. No. 106-246).

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 2251. An original bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to improve crop insurance coverage, to provide agriculture producers with choices to manage risk, and for other purposes.

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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2248. A bill to assist in the development and implementation of projects to provide

for the control of drainage water, storm water, flood water, and other water as part of water-related integrated resource management, environmental infrastructure, and resource protection and development projects in the Colusa Basin Watershed, California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. BREAUX, and Mr. BAYH):

S. 2249. A bill to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to require the Commissioner of Social Security to provide Congress with an annual report on the social security program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2250. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a shorter recovery period for the depreciation of certain restaurant buildings; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 2251. An original bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to improve crop insurance coverage, to provide agriculture producers with choices to manage risk, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2252. A bill to provide for the review of agriculture mergers and acquisitions by the Department of Agriculture and to outlaw unfair practices in the Agriculture industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2253. A bill to authorize the establishment of a joint United States-Canada commission to study the feasibility of connecting the rail system in Alaska to the North American continental rail system; 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. WARNER:

S. Res. 274. A resolution to designate April 9, 2000, as a "National Day of Remembrance of the One Hundred Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of the Battle of Saylor's Creek"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 275. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding fair access to Japanese telecommunications facilities and services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. ROBB, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) who are being awarded the AHEPA Medal for Military Service in the Armed Forces of the United States; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2248. A bill to assist in the development and implementation of projects to provide for the control of drainage water, storm water, flood water, and

other water as part of water-related integrated resource management, environmental infrastructure, and resource protection and development projects in the Colusa Basin Watershed, California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### COLUSA BASIN INTEGRATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN LEGISLATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce this bill which provides a comprehensive watershed plan to protect against flooding in the Colusa Basin. Last year such flooding caused approximately \$4.9 million in damage. In 1995 a major flood caused an estimated \$100 million in damages to public and private property and crops.

This bill would provide the necessary authorization for the Secretary of Interior to participate in the Colusa Basin project on a cost-shared basis. The Colusa Basin project would build the necessary infrastructure (small impoundments) to catch flood water, control the rate of release, restore wetlands and vegetation and ultimately protect the area against flooding. This authorization is needed for the project to continue.

I introduced an identical bill in the 105th Congress which passed both Houses of Congress but fell victim to the politics surrounding the omnibus budget bill. This bill once again enjoys bipartisan support.

I urge Congress to consider this bill before the end of the 106th Congress.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. BREAUX, and Mr. BAYH):

S. 2249. A bill to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to require the Commissioner of Social Security to provide Congress with an annual report on the Social Security program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

#### THE SOCIAL SECURITY REPORTING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I want to speak today about the issue we are going to take up tomorrow, the Social Security earnings limitation, and the fact that we are going to pass a bill tomorrow which will eliminate a limitation on the ability of people once they retire to make money independent of Social Security benefits they receive and not have their Social Security benefits reduced.

Under present-day law, unfortunately, a retired individual—or not even retired person, a person who has reached eligibility age for Social Security benefits—the age for eligibility retirement is really the wrong term to apply to that individual. That person is penalized if he goes out and gets a job because his benefits under Social Security are reduced if he makes a certain amount of money under that job.

That is wrong. It is something I have tried to correct, and a number of Mem-

bers of this Senate have tried to correct, for a number of years.

I have a bill, cosponsored by Senators KERREY, BREAUX, GRASSLEY, THOMPSON, ROBB, and THOMAS. It is a very bipartisan bill, obviously, and is strongly supported by many of the Members on the Finance Committee. That bill is, in substance, a reform bill for the entire Social Security system to allow us to have a Social Security system which is solvent for the next 100 years. It is a creative and imaginative piece of legislation, and it accomplishes that growth which is to create solvency in the Social Security system over the next 100 years and do it without raising taxes.

One of the elements of that bill is the repeal of the earnings limitation. It has been something I have supported and I have backed up with legislative language, cosponsored by myself, as I mentioned, and also by other Members of the Senate. Over the years, we have worked in this area. It is a very appropriate area to go into. However, tomorrow when we take up the bill for repealing the earnings limitation, we are going to take it up as sort of an isolated event. We are not taking it up very much as an isolated event but as part of a Social Security reform package. I guess that is where I have my concern, because we know the Social Security system, although solvent today and running very large surpluses, is headed towards the disastrous crash.

When the baby boom generation, the Bill Clinton generation, arrives at retirement, which starts in the year 2008 and accelerates aggressively so that by the year 2014 we actually are running a cash deficit within the Social Security system, we will have so many people retired in this country during the post-2008 period that we will have too many people retired for the younger generation to be able to support them effectively under the present structure of the Social Security system.

It will cost the next earnings generation—that generation who are my children, the children of the Members of this Senate, and their children's children—over \$7 trillion in general fund revenues. We are not talking about Social Security taxes; we are talking about general fund revenues over the period from 2014 to 2034. It will cost \$7 trillion of general fund revenues to keep the Social Security system solvent.

What does \$7 trillion in general fund revenues mean? That means there will have to be tax increases of \$7 trillion in order to pay for those benefits, or, alternatively, we will have to cut them.

Some of us have said let's not force this crisis on the next generation, let's not turn to our children and say, Here is the problem; we are going to give it to you. Many of us have said let's look at the problem today and try to solve it, let's try to put in place systems