

then the current Police Authority—a situation we find ludicrous and totally unacceptable.”

“Police planning and financial control are two key areas where it seems the new Board will have a reduced role, while the Secretary of State enjoys greater influence.

“And where the Board was supposed to get new powers, it seems rigid restrictions have been imposed. On the power to initiate enquiries for example, it is difficult to see how the Board could ever satisfy all the conditions required by the Secretary of State.”

“This is not the first time that Government has attempted to control policing in Northern Ireland. In our original submission to the Patten Commission we catalogued consistent attempts by the Government over the years to suppress the powers of the Police Authority.

“Successive Authorities have resisted such attempts by Government to directly influence policing and we will continue to do so in guarding against any weakening of the powers envisaged by Patten for the new Policing Board. The Patten report itself stated, ‘we do not believe the Secretary of State . . . should ever appear to have the power to direct the police.’—this obviously signalled a clear intention on the Commission’s part to curtail the powers of Government—not enhance them as the proposed legislation seems set to do.”

Mr. Armstrong however said the Authority supported much of the legislation including the apparent safeguards put in place to prevent District Policing Partnerships raising money for ‘freelance’ police services. He added that more time would be needed to examine all the issues in detail.

The Authority will shortly publish an in-depth analysis of the Government’s proposed Patten legislation and implementation plan.●

SENATE RESOLUTION 333—EX-
PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
SENATE THAT THERE SHOULD
BE PARITY AMONG THE COUN-
TRIES THAT ARE PARTIES TO
THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT WITH RE-
SPECT TO THE PERSONAL EX-
EMPTION ALLOWANCE FOR MER-
CHANDISE PURCHASED ABROAD
BY RETURNING RESIDENTS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KYL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LEAHY, and Mrs. HUTCHISON), submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 333

Whereas the personal exemption allowance is a vital component of trade and tourism;

Whereas many border communities and retailers depend on customers from both sides of the border;

Whereas a United States citizen traveling to Canada or Mexico for less than 24 hours is exempt from paying duties on the equivalent of \$200 worth of merchandise on return to the United States, and for trips over 48 hours United States citizens have an exemption of up to \$400 worth of merchandise;

Whereas a Canadian traveling in the United States is allowed a duty-free personal exemption allowance of only \$50 worth of merchandise for a 24-hour visit, the equivalent of \$200 worth of merchandise for a 48-

hour visit, and the equivalent of \$750 worth of merchandise for a visit of over 7 days;

Whereas Mexico has a 2-tiered personal exemption allowance for its returning residents, set at the equivalent of \$50 worth of merchandise for residents returning by car and the equivalent of \$300 worth of merchandise for residents returning by plane;

Whereas Canadian and Mexican retail businesses have an unfair competitive advantage over many American businesses because of the disparity between the personal exemption allowances among the 3 countries;

Whereas the State of Maine legislature passed a resolution urging action on this matter;

Whereas the disparity in personal exemption allowances creates a trade barrier by making it difficult for Canadians and Mexicans to shop in American-owned stores without facing high additional costs;

Whereas the United States entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico with the intent of phasing out tariff barriers among the 3 countries; and

Whereas it violates the spirit of the North American Free Trade Agreement for Canada and Mexico to maintain restrictive personal exemption allowance policies that are not reciprocal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, should initiate discussions with officials of the Governments of Canada and Mexico to achieve parity by harmonizing the personal exemption allowance structure of the 3 NAFTA countries at or above United States exemption levels; and

(2) in the event that parity with respect to the personal exemption allowance of the 3 countries is not reached within 1 year after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury should submit recommendations to Congress on whether legislative changes are necessary to lower the United States personal exemption allowance to conform to the allowance levels established in the other countries that are parties to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

COLLINS (AND REED) AMENDMENT
NO. 3700

Mr. SPECTER (for Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. REED)) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 34, on line 13, before the colon, insert the following: “, of which \$10,000,000 shall be used to provide grants to local non-profit private and public entities to enable such entities to develop and expand activities to provide substance abuse services to homeless individuals”.

KERREY (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3701

Mr. HARKIN (for Mr. KERREY (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN and Mr. ENZI)) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4577, supra; as follows:

On page 68, line 2, before the colon, insert the following: “, of which \$250,000 shall be for the Web-Based Education Commission”.

COLLINS (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3702

Mr. SPECTER (for Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ROBB, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. REED)) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4577, supra; as follows:

On page 24, line 1, strike “and”.

On page 24 line 7, insert before the colon the following: “, and of which \$4,000,000 shall be provided to the Rural Health Outreach Office of the Health Resources and Services Administration for the awarding of grants to community partnerships in rural areas for the purchase of automated external defibrillators and the training of individuals in basic cardiac life support”.

JEFFORDS AMENDMENT NO. 3703

Mr. SPECTER (for Mr. JEFFORDS) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4577, supra; as follows:

On page 43, line 9, before the colon, insert the follow: “, of which 5,000,000 shall be available for activities regarding medication management, screening, and education to prevent incorrect medication and adverse drug reactions”.

SPECTER AMENDMENT NO. 3704

Mr. SPECTER proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4577, supra; as follows:

On page 50, line 20, after the dash insert the following: “Except as provided by subsection (e)”.

On page 51, line 1 strike “December 15, 2000” and insert in lieu thereof: “March 1, 2001”.

On page 52, line 2, strike “2000” and insert in lieu thereof “2001”.

On page 52, after line 2, insert the following new section

“(e) TERRITORIES.—None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to withhold substance abuse funding pursuant to section 1926 from a territory that receives less than \$1,000,000.”

GRAHAM AMENDMENT NO. 3705

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. HARKIN (for Mr. GRAHAM) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4577, supra; as follows:

On page 54, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. . (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct a study to examine—

(1) the experiences of hospitals in the United States in obtaining reimbursement from foreign health insurance companies whose enrollees receive medical treatment in the United States;