

administered by State and local units of government.

(b) **MATTERS STUDIES.**—For purposes of subsection (a), the matters described in this subsection include the following:

(1) An assessment of Federal programs administered by State and local units of government, including local educational agencies, explicitly required to implement the administrative simplification requirements under provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

(2) An assessment of other Federal and non-Federal programs administered by State and local units of government, including local educational agencies, that will be required to implement the administrative simplification requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in order to exchange electronic health data with private sector providers and insurers.

(3) An analysis of the costs that will be incurred by State and local units of government, including local educational agencies, to implement the administrative simplification requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in programs described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(4) An analysis of Federal resources available to units of State and local government, including local educational agencies, for implementing the administrative simplification requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in programs described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(5) An assessment of guidance provided to State and local units of government, including local educational agencies, by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Department of Health and Human Services on the implementation of the administrative simplification requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in programs described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(6) An assessment of the coordination between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other Federal agencies on the implementation of the administrative simplification requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in Federal programs administered by State and local units of government, including local educational agencies, in programs described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “administrative simplification requirements” means all standards for transactions, data elements for such transactions, unique health identifiers, code sets, security, and privacy issued pursuant to sections 262 and 264 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

SA 2054. Mr. SESSIONS proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3061, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. . STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The number of students applying for loans and claiming to attend foreign institutions has risen from 4,594 students in 1993 to over 12,000 students in the 1998–1999 school year.

(2) Since 1995 there have been at least 25 convictions of students who fraudulently

claimed they were attending a foreign institution, then cashed the check issued directly to them, and did not attend the foreign institution.

(3) Tighter disbursement controls are necessary to reduce the number of students fraudulently applying for loans under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and claiming they are going to attend foreign institutions. Funds should not be disbursed for attendance at a foreign institution unless the foreign institution can verify that the student is attending the institution.

(b) **STUDY AND REPORT.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study regarding—

(A) Federal student loan disbursements to students attending foreign schools; and

(B) fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Family Education Loan Program as the fraud, waste, and abuse relates to students receiving funding in order to attend a foreign school.

(2) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General shall report to Congress regarding the results of the study.

(3) **REPORT CONTENTS.**—The report described in paragraph (2) shall—

(A) include information on whether or not there are standards that a foreign school must meet for an American student to attend and receive a federally guaranteed student loan;

(B) compare the oversight controls for loans dispensed to students attending foreign schools and domestic institutions;

(C) examine the default rates at foreign schools that enroll American students receiving federally guaranteed student loans and determine the number of students that are receiving loans in multiple years; and

(D) make recommendations for legislative changes that are required to ensure the integrity of the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

SA 2055. Mr. GRAMM proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2044 proposed by Mr. DASCHLE to the bill (H.R. 3061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes; as follows:

After line 7 on page 9, insert the following:

“(6) Protecting the constitutional right of all firefighters, law enforcement officers and public safety employees who risk their lives on a daily basis to protect our property, freedoms and loved ones in exercising their right to follow their conscience in whether or not to join a labor organization in connection with their decision to pursue a career dedicated to service and sacrifice in defense of the innocent in order to provide for their own families.”

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will conduct a business meeting on October 31, 2001, in SR-328A at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of this business meeting will be to confirm the organization of the Agriculture Committee Subcommittee membership, mark up the

credit title of the new Federal farm bill, and consider S. 1519, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide farm credit assistance for activated reservists.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to conduct a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 31, 2001. The purpose of this business meeting will be to confirm the organization of the Agriculture Committee subcommittee membership, mark up the credit title of the new Federal farm bill, and consider S. 1519, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide farm credit assistance for activated reservists.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 31, 2001, at 2 p.m. to hold a nomination hearing.

Agenda

Nominees: Mr. George Argyros, Sr., of California, to be Ambassador to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to Andorra; Mr. Robert Beecroft, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Head of Mission, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Mr. Lyons Brown, Jr., of Kentucky, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria; to be introduced by: the Honorable MITCH MCCONNELL.

Mr. Stephan Minikes, of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, to be introduced by: the Honorable ARLEN SPECTER.

Mr. William Montgomery, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Mr. Melvin Sembler, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Italy; and Mr. Ronald Weiser, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, to be introduced by: the Honorable CARL LEVIN.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters on Wednesday, October 31, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., in room S-407 in the Capitol.