Throughout the years, J.J. has been on the front line of progress for union members in New Jersey. In 1996, J.J. became the first African American to be elected to the Executive Board of the Service Employees International Union. As a member of the board, J.J. fought for fair wages, better health benefits, and safer working conditions, and was later elected president of the SEIU New Jersey State Council, which represents over 25,000 workers in the State of New Jersey.

In 1998, J.J. had the honor of being the first African American to serve as Grand Marshall of the Essex-West Hudson Labor Council “Celebration of Labor Day Parade,” and received the National Leadership Achievement Award from the SEIU Caucus of People of African Descent. In 2000, J.J. also became the first African American ever to receive the New Jersey AFL-CIO Labor Award, and later this month he will be honored by the National African American Caucus of the SEIU for his outstanding leadership in the Union.

I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of J.J. Johnson, a man who for thirty years has been a standard bearer of the labor movement. His hard work, determination, and service are a model for our labor leaders, indeed all leaders, to follow and learn from.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer of the Senate read the following messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 768. An act to amend the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994 to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws; to the Committee on Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 974. An act to increase the number of interaccount transfers which may be made from business accounts at depository institutions, to authorize the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to pay interest on reserves, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 59. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:


By Ms. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

H.R. 794. An act to repeal the prohibition on the payment of interest on demand deposits, to increase the number of interaccount transfer which may be made from business accounts at depository institutions, to assure the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to pay interest on reserves, and for other purposes.