of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food" (Doc. No. 94F-0008) received on April 18, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1394. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to Kuwait; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1395. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1396. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or services under a contract in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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-9. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Kansas relative to the assistance with Gulf War Illness; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Whereas, Nearly 700,000 members of the United States armed forces, including 7,500 Kansans, deployed to the Persian Gulf region during 1990 and 1991 to participate in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait; and Whereas, These Gulf War veterans have been, and continue to be, afflicted by an abnormally high rate of health problems. To date federal research efforts have not identified the prevalence, patterns,
Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the Senate, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, each member of the United States Congress, the commanding officers of all branches of the military, and the Governor of each state.

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs failed to address adequately for veterans of past wars and conflicts, the need for a national energy policy that considers all possible fuels; therefore,

Resolved, That the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and other federal agencies are directed to address the need for a national energy policy that considers all possible fuels.

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and other federal agencies are directed to address the need for a national energy policy that considers all possible fuels.

Resolved, That the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and other federal agencies are directed to address the need for a national energy policy that considers all possible fuels.

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April 23, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE 5991

maintain the quality of life for its citizens that has earned a reputation for excellence from military service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein, That the Kansas Legislature respectfully requests and petitions its Congressional representatives of the United States to address, for rectification, the aforementioned concerns regarding the health care coverage of our retired military veterans and their immediate families; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State is hereby directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation.


JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the United States, generally and the western states specially are experiencing severe energy shortages, particularly a shortage of electrical energy; and

Whereas, energy generation facilities are urgently needed to prevent these shortages and the damaging consequence of these shortages as they permeate the economy; and

Whereas, in recent years the timely construction of these necessary facilities has been obstructed and hindered by endless litigation and other delaying tactics; and

Whereas, the majority of people of the State of Wyoming desire to pursue sound energy and economic development; and

Whereas, Wyoming is richly endowed with natural resources, including Powder River Basin super compliant coal and Wyoming gas and oil that could solve the pending electrical energy supply crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved By The members of the legislature of the State of Wyoming:

1. That the President, the Vice-President, the Congress and the Executive Branch of the federal government are urged to immediately secure the construction of critically needed new energy generation facilities, oil, and gas pipeline and transmission facilities using Wyoming Powder River Basin super compliant coal, Wyoming gas and other available Wyoming natural resources.

2. That the United States Congress is urged to enact any legislation that will support the construction of energy and electric generation facilities, transmission facilities and gas pipelines.

3. That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of Energy and the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

POM–15. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the metal industry; to the Committee on Finance.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Metal manufacturing is integral to the economy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, employing over 72,900 workers in the primary metal industry and 86,290 workers in the fabricated metal products industry; and

Whereas, The American steel industry holds the steel from the holdings of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for its contribution to business and industry; and

Whereas, The American steel industry plays a vital role in national security, which depends on a strong domestic steel economy, and in our national defense, which relies on a strong steel manufacturing base, creating a high level of concern for America and our allies; and

Whereas, The specialty steel industry, which includes stainless steel, tool steel and other alloyed metal steel, holds an important position in the economic and industrial history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States and has made significant improvements to restructure and modernize and become a world leader in productivity and competitiveness; and

Whereas, The current economic and financial crises in Russia, Asia and other foreign nations have involved severe devaluation of the currencies of several primary steel-producing and steel-consuming countries along with a collapse in the domestic demand for steel and specialty steel in these countries; and

Whereas, The crises have generated and will continue to generate surges of steel imports into the United States, flooding the American market with foreign steel and foreign steel products at prices severely below production cost, thereby disadvantageous the American steel industry and its workers and families in the marketplace while the United States, through the International Trade Administration, the U.S. Trade Representative, the International Trade Commission, and the U.S. Trade Adjustment Assistance, continues to participate in a massive financial bailout of these countries in a manner that encourages exports; and

Whereas, Imports of specialty steel from foreign producers are being dumped into this country in large quantities at unfair, below-market prices, contributing significantly to reduced employment, depressed wages in employment for American workers; and

Whereas, The dumping of stainless steel plate in coils and other alloyed metal steel, is prevalent in the United States market, causing an adverse impact on domestic steel production and the thousands of jobs in this Commonwealth and State associated with the regular and specialty steel industry; and

Whereas, Recent reports confirm that this country is headed for a downturn in the economy, thereby requiring prompt Federal action and initiatives; and

Whereas, Recent reports confirm that 14 steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, protection, and the impact of this problem goes well beyond one industry; and

Whereas, Statistics over the last three years have proven that the dumping of foreign steel into the American marketplace has had a devastating economic effect on American jobs; and

Whereas, There is a serious need for improvements in the enforcement of United States trade laws to provide an effective response to this dumping; and

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call on the President of the United States and the Federal Government not to take any action that would erode the effectiveness of our trade laws, including duties relating to stainless steel plate in coils; and

(2) continue to impose antidumping duties on specified high-quality flat-rolled stainless steel products from foreign nations; (3) work to establish a more equitable distribution of the burden of accepting imports of foreign steel; and

(4) establish the appropriate forum or mechanism for executive branch interagency cooperation to closely monitor imports of steel and other alloyed metal steel.

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the United States Trade Representative and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–17. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia relative to Interstate Route 81 corridor; to the Committee on Appropriations.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Virginia portion of Interstate Route 81 is among the most heavily traveled highway corridors in the United States; and

Whereas, Interstate Route 81 was originally designed to accommodate ten percent truck traffic, but, over time, the percentage of truck traffic has continued to grow, until the highway’s traffic today is composed of approximately forty percent truck traffic; and

Whereas, this large number of heavy vehicles not only contributes to traffic congestion and exacerbates the severity of highway crashes, but also increases the frequency and the cost of highway maintenance and reconstruction on Interstate Route 81 and other highways in the corridor; and

Whereas, transferring freight from highway trucks to rail saves fuel, reduces congestion, minimizes air and water pollution, reduces highway maintenance and construction costs, and promotes safety; and

Whereas, Interstate Route 81 is paralleled for its entire length through Virginia by a rail line, much of which has been engineered and constructed more than 100 years ago, and which does not currently provide a competitive alternative to the use of Interstate Route 81 by heavy trucks; and

Whereas, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation has studied whether improvements to the parallel rail infrastructure are likely to result in the diversion of some of the interstate heavy truck traffic from Interstate Route 81 to the rail road, and whether investing public funds in improving the railroad infrastructure would result in measurable benefit to the public; and

Whereas, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation study concluded that specified improvements to the rail infrastructure in the Interstate Route 81 corridor could divert the railroad as much as 10 percent of the interstate truck traffic now moving and projected to move on Interstate 81, with a potential public benefit of as much as $300 million to $32 billion; and

Whereas, diversifying the movement of a substantial number of heavy trucks would reduce congestion, reduce maintenance and construction costs, reduce fuel consumption, reduce air and water pollution, reduce accidents, and is clearly in the public interest; and
Whereas, public funding of improvements to the infrastructure, together with completion of the scheduled improvements to Interstate Route 81, would provide an example to the nation of the significant public benefits resulting from the use of public funds for viable rail alternatives for the transportation of interstate freight; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurred, That the United States Congress be urged to appropriate funds for improvement of rail infrastructure in the Interstate Route 81 corridor. Such improvement shall ensure that the railroad that parallels Interstate Route 81 in Virginia provides a viable alternative to the use of Interstate Route 81 for the movement of interstate freight traffic; and, be it

Resolved further, That the General Assembly of Virginia support the conclusions of the study conducted by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and commend it to the United States Congress for consideration; and, be it

That the United States Congress take action necessary to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 60-month limit and increase the income limitation on the student loan interest deduction.

POM-18. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to the 1946 Rescission Act; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Whereas, The Philippines Islands was a territory of the United States until July 4, 1946, and the United States had control over Philippine nationals and its internal affairs. The Philippines Commonwealth had no function in matters of foreign affairs and could not declare war nor surrender its forces; and

Whereas, On July 26, 1941, U.S. President Roosevelt issued a Military Order and invoked for the first time Section 2(a)(2) of the Philippine Independence Act (P.L. No. 77-127 Section 10(a)) to “call and order into the service of the armed forces of the United States . . . all of the organized military forces of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines”; and

Whereas, World War II is remembered as The Good War that President Roosevelt claimed to have defended the great human freedoms against the encroachment and attack of the dark forces of despotism; and

Whereas, Filipino soldiers fought during World War II under the American flag and under the direction and control of United States military leaders pursuant to President Roosevelt’s July 1941 Military Order; and

Whereas, Shortly after the war in 1946, the U.S. Congress passed the Rescission Act which specifically mandates that services rendered by Filipino World War II veterans . . . shall not be deemed to have been active military service for the purpose of any of the laws of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits . . . ; and

Whereas, The legislative rider appended to the 1946 Rescission Act denies U.S. military status and benefits to those veterans who fought under the command of officers of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines; and

Whereas, The significant and adverse impact of the 1946 Rescission Act is its unjust discrimination against Filipino soldiers of World War II by denying them eligibility for equal benefits administered by the department of veterans affairs; and

Whereas, Filipinos are the only national group singled out for denial of full U.S. veteran status while the soldiers of more than sixty-six other U.S. allied countries, who were similarly inducted into the service of the armed forces of the United States during World War II, were granted full U.S. veteran status; and

Whereas, The United States government has yet to fully restore the rights, privileges, and benefits guaranteed, then, under the 1946 Rescission Act. The Philippine soldiers of WWII were left to shoulder the burden of their sacrifices; and

Whereas, The Gallantry, loyalty, and sacrifices of Filipino veterans of WWII, who fought for freedom and democracy in the Armed Forces of the United States, deserve recognition and their honor and dignity restored; and

Whereas, There is no pending legislation in the U.S. Congress that will restore full United States veterans status to Filipino WWII veterans: Now, therefore

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be immediately transmitted to the Senate, the House of Representatives, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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. GRASSLEY:
S. 756. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for electricity produced from biomass, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER:

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to establish an off-budget lockbox to strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

At the request of Mr. Baucus, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance programs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire) was added as a cosponsor of S. 152, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance programs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. RIEGEL, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 170, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

At the request of Mr. ARAKA, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to amend the provisions of title 39, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established.

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to suspend for two years the increased payment rates under the prospective payment system for home health services and to permanently increase payments for such services that are furnished in rural areas.