

lease of the National Airport and Dulles airport, and the autonomy it provided for the Airport Authority.

I do not quarrel with the characterization of the distinguished Senator from Georgia as to some of the Federal strings that remain attached to that particular legislation. We seldom really ever turn loose anything in its entirety in this body, and I understand that.

But the bottom line is, in my judgment, this legislation disregards the views of local officials and business leaders, and thrusts the central government upon a local authority that was divorced from the federal government by President Reagan himself.

The amendment I have sent to the desk simply creates an advisory group which would take into consideration the views of the local community, and the history of a particular facility, before any renaming occurs.

There may be other approaches to this particular challenge, and in listening to the distinguished minority leader, I believe his approach would be entirely appropriate.

The problem here is that we are taking up and considering legislation that has not been considered by any committee of the Senate, that has not had any hearing. Indeed, when we have been able to ascertain the views of those who would normally be considered most interested, they have expressed reservations in various degrees. I think it would be appropriate under the circumstances, since the legislation before us today purports to honor the 40th President, if the views of either the President or Mrs. Reagan, who speaks so eloquently for him, were known on this matter. I think that would be helpful to many Members in considering this issue.

It may be entirely appropriate, after appropriate consultation, to go ahead and rename Washington National Airport.

In any event, the haste with which we move is designed, I believe, to reflect the coming birthday of President Reagan. And I would simply suggest that some consultation with the family—and specifically the President, or speaking for the President, Mrs. Reagan—might very much be in order.

A very nice ceremony, I am informed, has been planned for the dedication of the Ronald Reagan Building on May 5. The former First Lady is planning to participate, and I think all the Members of Congress will certainly be there, if not in body, then in spirit.

So I ask my colleagues to think about what we are doing, and think about whether or not this properly honors the man it is designed to honor.

The amendment I have sent to the desk will be taken up tomorrow. Again, it would create an advisory group that would deliberate on some of the issues I have raised, and report back to Congress in a timely fashion. It would not preclude any action by the Senate or the House. It would simply provide

input from some of the local governments and communities that President Reagan so strongly defended during his long and illustrious tour as President of the United States.

Mr. President, I request the yeas and nays on the amendment I have sent to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, unless the Senator from Georgia wishes to take the floor at this point, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, once again this argument, which I just simply do not understand, suggesting that the President's family somehow has to come here and seek homage, or lobby the Congress—it is an incredible argument. That family would never do that. Anybody waiting for some communique or something of that nature—I would not hold my breath.

As I said a moment ago, this is something the Nation has to feel it needs to do. It is a “thank you” that they need to express; our country, our citizens. There is no way that family would come here lobbying for this kind of thing. I am always surprised when it is suggested that we have not heard or something. That is disappointing.

Mr. President, again I want to make it clear, the sponsors are going to oppose any of these amendments that change the rules retroactively, that impose some new constraint on this redesignation or some new constraint on the Congress. The concept of putting something in place prospectively may be laudable. There are several amendments here by Members on the other side who have declared they are going to vote for the redesignation but they have another issue that they are bringing forward. I think that is appropriate. But the amendments that reach backwards are not acceptable on our side.

The argument that a local city or authority has jurisdiction here is, in my judgment, a specious argument. The Federal Government's relationship with Washington National Airport is indisputable. You cannot go to that airport without seeing the presence of it any day or any night. And the law is very clear, in terms of the Federal role in that facility. I will read the short version rather than the elongated:

The Federal Government has a continuing but limited interest in the operation of the two federally owned airports which serve the travel and cargo needs of the entire metropolitan Washington region as well as the District of Columbia as the national seat of Government.

As I said, municipalities are creatures of State governments and chartered by State governments and the Governor of the State of jurisdiction is in support of the redesignation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF DEFERRALS OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 89

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Finance, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report eight new deferrals of budgetary resources, totaling \$4.8 billion.

These deferrals affect programs of the Department of State, the Social Security Administration, and International Security Assistance.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1998.

REPORT CONCERNING FISHERIES OFF THE COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 90

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1823, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Latvia extending the Agreement on April 8, 1993, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended (the 1993 Agreement). The

present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Riga on February 13 and May 23, 1997, extends the 1993 Agreement to December 31, 1999.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Latvia, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1998.

REPORT OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 91

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 1996, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1998.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment;

S. 1349. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel *Prince Nova*, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1271) to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal years 1998 through 2000, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated on Monday, February 2, 1998:

EC-3930. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to intelligence-related oversight activities for the period April 1 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3931. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1997"; 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-334. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas the triweekly Amtrak Pioneer passenger railroad service between Portland, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho, is vital to the economy of the State of Oregon; and

Whereas the closure of the Amtrak Pioneer service will leave many people without their only form of transportation; and

Whereas many people in eastern Oregon rely upon the Amtrak Pioneer service in the harsh winter months when bus and automobile travel is not safe and often not possible; and

Whereas the closure of the Amtrak Pioneer service will leave many people, especially the elderly and disabled, stranded without adequate transportation to medical services in distant metropolitan areas; and

Whereas the closure of the Amtrak Pioneer service will have long lasting negative economic and cultural effects on the rural communities that line the route; and

Whereas the Amtrak Pioneer service has a history and tradition with the people who use the service; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to continue to fund the triweekly Amtrak Pioneer passenger railroad service between Portland, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho.

(2) A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

POM-335. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the State of Oregon relies on its state trust lands to fund schools; and

Whereas the counties in the State of Oregon rely on federal timber receipts for school funds and vital elements of their infrastructure; and

Whereas responsible management of natural resources on federal land in this state is important for the economic, social and cultural stability of Oregon's communities; and

Whereas active forest management is necessary to prevent ecologic degradation by insects, disease and wildfire; and

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 provides a process for public participation in major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The President and Congress of the United States are urged to take action to prevent the designation of any national monument in the State of Oregon without full public participation and an express Act of Congress.

(2) The recipients of this resolution shall respond to this Legislative Assembly, conveying their plan to comply with this resolution.

(3) Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Council on Environmental quality and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

POM-336. A resolution adopted by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relative to Swiss bank accounts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Switzerland has established, in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Congress and World Jewish Restoration Organization, an independent committee on eminent persons to examine the issue of dormant World War II era accounts in Swiss Banks; and

Whereas, a comprehensive claims resolution process has been established, which includes the publication worldwide of the names of foreign dormant account holders from the World War II era and the creation of a board of trustees of the Independent Claims Resolution Foundation, which is being set up to operate the claims settlement process for resolving claims to said dormant accounts; and

Whereas, Switzerland has created a nine member Independent Commission of Experts to investigate the complex issues surrounding the fate of assets brought to Switzerland because of National Socialist rule; and

Whereas, Switzerland has established a special fund for needy victims of the Holocaust/SHOA, which has received contributions from the major Swiss Banks and private sector groups and institutions; and

Whereas, the Swiss public has organized several efforts to provide assistance to needy Holocaust victims; and

Whereas, Switzerland—the government, the private sector and the people—have made an overwhelming effort to rectify matters; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That, the Massachusetts General Court urges the Congress of the United States to continue its diligent efforts in seeking the resolution of the complex issues surrounding these dormant World War II era accounts in Swiss banks; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the presiding officer of each branch of Congress and to the Members thereof from this commonwealth.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 1597. A bill to establish food safety research, education, and extension as priorities of the Department of Agriculture, to require the use of a designated team within the Department of Agriculture to enable the Department and other Federal agencies to rapidly respond to food safety emergencies, and to improve food safety through the development and commercialization of food safety technology; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 1598. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish and provide a checkoff for a Breast and Prostate Cancer Research Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GRAMS, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 1599. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for purposes of human cloning; to the Committee on the Judiciary.