

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.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1600. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive in the case of multiemployer plans the section 415 limit on benefits to the participant's average compensation for his high 3 years; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1601. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for purposes of human cloning; read the first time.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1602. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit any attempt to clone a human being using somatic cell nuclear transfer and to prohibit the use of Federal funds for such purposes, to provide for further review of the ethical and scientific issues associated with the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer in human beings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. ROBB):

S. Res. 172. A resolution congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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.

##### THE SAFE FOOD ACTION PLAN ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I am pleased to be introducing companion legislation to a bill prepared by Congresswoman DEBBIE STABENOW entitled the Safe Food Action Plan Act.

The bill adds food safety as a new statutory priority in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research, education and extension programs. This should mean that more of the nearly \$1.5 billion spent through existing grant and research programs, including the Fund for Rural America, will be focused directly on food safety. That's the kind of awareness that we need, to prevent and combat food supply contamination.

The bill also creates a Federal Emergency Management Agency-like ap-

proach to dealing with food safety crises. Currently, there are at least 3 agencies within the Department of Agriculture that have some responsibility for preventing and controlling outbreaks of food borne disease, not to mention the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control. This bill establishes a Food Safety Rapid Response Team across internal division boundaries within USDA that will coordinate with other Federal agencies. If outbreaks do occur, the American people must be confident that the government is prepared to efficiently handle and limit such public health threats.

This legislation was developed by Congresswoman STABENOW over several months with input from all parts of the food production and consumption chain and the Department of Agriculture. It is an excellent complement to the Administration's enforcement enhancement proposal. The Safe Food Action Plan is a sensible and cost-effective way to make the Federal government responsive and responsible.

I hope the Agriculture Committee will seek to move this legislation as quickly as possible, and I urge my colleagues to consider cosponsoring this important measure.

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.

##### THE HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT OF 1998

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today, I rise to announce that we are introducing a measure that places an outright ban on the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for human cloning purposes. Recent reports that a Chicago-based scientist is prepared to move forward with human cloning experimentation forces us to engage in an immediate debate on how far out on the moral cliff we are willing to let science proceed before we as a Nation insist on some meaningful constraints. When the announcement was made last month that these efforts to raise funds for human cloning were going forward, we stated that we would move on an emergency basis to deal with this and to express, through congressional action, a strong sense that this is unacceptable and we must prohibit it. I am pleased to be joined by the distinguished cosponsors, Senators FRIST, GREGG, LOTT, HUTCHISON, SHELBY, NICKLES, LUGAR, ABRAHAM, GRAMS, and HAGEL.

I believe we no longer have the luxury of waiting around for this morally reprehensible act to occur in the United States. Less than a year ago, the cloning of Dolly, the now famous sheep, provoked a debate of unprece-

dented proportions, a debate which to this day generates polar feelings of fascination and fear. We have in this body adopted prohibition on the use of Federal funds for research on or experimentation in human cloning. The time has come for us to make that a flat prohibition and to put our country in league with other civilized countries, which are saying human cloning is not acceptable and will not go forward.

Daily news accounts about the successful cloning of animals and stories of organizations and individuals pursuing human cloning have kept the debate alive. The American public is asking if similar techniques can be used to clone humans, and they are concerned whether something that was once thought only to be science fiction is now closer to becoming a reality.

Those opposing a prohibition on human cloning suggest that we cannot put the genie back in the bottle, and that we cannot stop progress. I suggest that in this case our technological capability may be outrunning our moral sense.

The ethical implications of human cloning are staggering. We should never create human life for spare parts, as a replacement for a child who has died, or for other unnatural and selfish purposes.

How many embryos or babies would we tolerate being created with abnormalities before we would perfect human cloning? It took Scottish scientists over 276 tries before they created Dolly, and we still do not even know if Dolly is the perfect sheep. What would have happened had those 276 been badly deformed potential humans? For humans, these results are entirely unacceptable. Dr. Ian Wilmut, the leading Scottish scientist who created Dolly, himself has stated that he can see no scenario under which it would be ethical to clone human life. I believe he is right.

Moreover, in September of 1994, a federal Human Embryo Research Panel noted that "allowing society to create genetically identical persons would devalue human life by undermining the individuality of human beings."

Further, the panel concluded that "there are broad moral concerns about the deliberate duplication of an individual genome. The notion of cloning an existing human being or of making carbon copies of an existing embryo appears repugnant to members of the public. Many members of the panel share this view and see no justification for federal funding of such research."

And I would emphatically argue that those statements apply to private sector research as well.

It is also important to note that this legislation is narrowly drafted, and it's sole objective is to ban the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer for human cloning purposes. We worked overtime to ensure that this language was specific so that it would only ban this technique which was used to create Dolly.