

stood at \$5,492,157,484,525.10 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-two billion, one hundred fifty-seven million, four hundred eighty-four thousand, five hundred twenty-five dollars and ten cents).

One year ago, May 13, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,337,495,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred thirty-seven billion, four hundred ninety-five million).

Five years ago, May 13, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,247,269,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred forty-seven billion, two hundred sixty-nine million).

Ten years ago, May 13, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,510,149,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred ten billion, one hundred forty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, May 13, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,258,087,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred fifty-eight billion, eighty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,234,070,484,525.10 (Four trillion, two hundred thirty-four billion, seventy million, four hundred eighty-four thousand, five hundred twenty-five dollars and ten cents) during the past 15 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 8TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute's report for the week ending May 8, disclosed that the U.S. imported 8,772,000 barrels of oil each day, an increase of 1,206,000 barrels over the 7,566,000 imported every day during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 57.9 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Politicians had better give consideration to the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 8,772,000 barrels a day.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 10. An act to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, and other financial service providers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2431. An act to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 10. An act to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, and other financial service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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-400. A resolution adopted by the Society of Guerrillas and Scouts International relative to benefits for Filipino-American World War II veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

POM-401. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 85

Whereas, the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia revere the deeds of men and women on both sides who struggled through four years of conflict, 1861-1865; and

Whereas, Virginia's Civil War battlefields are places of contemplation, reverence, and education, and are of incalculable value to the health and identity of the Commonwealth and the nation; and

Whereas, the preservation of these hallowed places is critical to a tourism industry that attracts millions of visitors and supports thousands of jobs across the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, many of Virginia's battlefields sit astride important historic transportation corridors that link or traverse rapidly-growing areas; and

Whereas, a critical need exists to modernize, expand, and modify many of the roadways and transportation systems on or near these historic battlefields; and

Whereas, the continued health and vitality of Virginia's Civil War tourism industry depends upon better long-range transportation planning and greater cooperation and dialogue among the various stakeholders in the nation's historic resources and Virginia's transportation system, including private property owners and local governments; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring. That Congress, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and local governing bodies of those jurisdictions where major Civil War battlefields are located be urged to identify, fund, and implement policies and programs to address transportation needs within the historic battlefields in Virginia. In developing legislation, administrative policies and regulations affecting the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and local transportation agencies, the Congress, the Governor, and affected local governing bodies are encouraged to undertake cooperative and integrated long-range transportation planning, particularly for the construction of new highways affecting historic battlefields in Virginia and to jointly seek new and innovative transportation strategies that will (i) meet the long-term transportation needs of Virginia's citizens, (ii) respect the interests of all levels of government and the rights of private property owners, and (iii) minimize the impact on Virginia's Civil War battlefields; and, be it

Resolved further, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the members of the Congressional Delegation of Virginia, and the Governor in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the Virginia General Assembly in this matter.

POM-402. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

Whereas, the voters and citizens of the state of New Hampshire demand and are entitled to the highest level of integrity in the electoral and legislative processes; and

Whereas, the general court has enacted laws to limit political contributions and political expenditures to improve the integrity of the electoral and legislative processes; and

Whereas, the general court has also enacted laws requiring disclosure of contributions to candidates and gifts to elected officials to improve the integrity of the electoral and legislative processes; and

Whereas, notwithstanding the desires of the voters and the citizens of the state of New Hampshire, the United States Congress, relying upon article I, section 4 of the United States Constitution, has preempted the power of the states to regulate campaign financing in connection with elections for the United States Senate and House of Representatives; and

Whereas, article I, section 4 of the United States Constitution was never intended to deprive the states of the authority to regulate campaign financing; and

Whereas, recent hearings conducted by the United States Senate have established that political parties receive large contributions of "soft money" in order to "buy" direct access to Congress and to the President; and

Whereas, the revelations concerning these contributions foster voter cynicism; and

Whereas, the use of "soft money" by the major parties has undermined the utility of New Hampshire's voluntary limitations on political expenditures laws; and

Whereas, "soft money" contributions undermine the campaign disclosure laws because the source of the contributions is untraceable, thereby making it impossible for the voter to determine the likelihood of improper influence on policy decisions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

That the general court of the state of New Hampshire hereby urges the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to return to the states the power to regulate campaign financing in connection with elections for the United States Senate and House of Representatives and to take immediate action to adequately regulate "soft money" donations to political committees of political parties; and

That, if the United States Congress has not taken such action prior to the commencement of the filing period for the New Hampshire presidential primary election, the secretary of state is directed to deliver to each presidential candidate a copy of this resolution and a declaration to be executed by the candidate stating whether the candidate supports or opposes this resolution; and

That copies of this resolution be sent by the clerk of the house of representatives to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the New Hampshire Congressional delegation.

POM-403. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio relative to the proposed "Safety Advancement for Employees Act"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

POM-404. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio relative to the proposal entitled "Child Care That Strengthens American Families"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

POM-405. A resolution adopted by the Superintendent and Board of Education of Lauderdale County (Alabama) relative to public schools; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

POM-406. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION 766

Whereas, Congress is considering legislation to exempt insurance arrangements offered by associations and multiple employer welfare arrangements from state insurance reform standards; and

Whereas, this proposal would allow associations and multiple employer welfare arrangements to be regulated by the federal government under inadequate federal standards; and

Whereas, Congress explicitly gave states the authority to regulate multiple employer welfare arrangements in 1983 after numerous cases of fraud, abuse, and insolvency regarding multiple employer welfare arrangements; and

Whereas, the states, as the primary regulators of the local insurance market, are better able to ensure effective regulation of those entities than the federal government; and

Whereas, federal preemption would undermine efforts states have made to protect consumers through establishing minimum standards for health plans; and

Whereas, federal preemption would undermine state insurance reforms passed in recent years at the urging of business groups to improve access and affordability for small employers; and

Whereas, this exemption would seriously erode the funding mechanisms of access measures for the uninsured and for uncompensated care enacted by the states: now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Georgia, That the members of this body urge the Georgia congressional delegation and the United States Congress to reject any legislation that would exempt health plans sponsored by associations and multiple employer welfare arrangements from state insurance standards and oversight; be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to each member of the Georgia congressional delegation, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the President of the United States Senate.

POM-407. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Whereas, when the Nazis came to power in Germany more than half a century ago, many European Jews and other individuals frantically sent their valuables to secret bank accounts in neutral Switzerland, trusting their possessions would be safe; and

Whereas Swiss bank deposits made by Jews and other individuals later murdered in the Holocaust have not all been made available to heirs or to the world Jewish community; and

Whereas all Americans have a responsibility to ensure that justice is done; and

Whereas it is appropriate for Alaska to join other states in the effort to encourage Swiss banking institutions to release information that will bring closure to the painful chapter in history we know as the Holocaust and justice to those who lost everything, even their lives, to the actions of the Nazi Germans and the Swiss banks; and

Whereas the establishment of two commissions by the Swiss government to investigate Switzerland's wartime dealings reflects Swiss recognition of a moral obligation to uncover the truth, especially in light of the advanced age of the Holocaust survivor population; be it

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its gratitude to the members of the Swiss government and banking officials who have cooperated thus far in allowing investigations to be carried out because, without their assistance, these investigations would not be possible and none of the assets in question would be recoverable by their rightful owners or their heirs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate requests the government of Switzerland and the Swiss banking industry to compensate Holocaust survivors, their heirs, and Jewish communities in Switzerland and throughout the world for denying their property for more than 50 years.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the seven members of the Federal Council, or Bundesrat, of the Swiss government.

POM-408. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Hungary, and the Czech Republic are free, democratic, and independent nations with long and proud histories and cultures; and

Whereas, their recently attained freedom was achieved following decades of struggle under the repressive yoke of brutal Communist regimes; and

Whereas, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a defense alliance comprised of democratic states and is dedicated to the preservation and security of its member nations; and

Whereas, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Hungary, and the Czech Republic desire to share in both the benefits and obligations of NATO in pursuing the development, growth, and promotion of democratic institutions and ensuring free market economic development; and

Whereas, article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty provides the opportunity for NATO to accept as new members those nations that will promote the high standards of the Alliance and will contribute to the strengthening of the North Atlantic region; and

Whereas, Poland's, Hungary's, and the Czech Republic's democratic governments and free market economies place them in full compliance with the membership criteria in accordance with Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty as well as the "Study on the Expansion of NATO"; and

Whereas, Poland's, Hungary's and the Czech Republic's economies are the fastest

growing and most robust of the eastern European nations, their economic ties to the United States overall, and in particular to California, have broadened significantly from year to year, and the 1990 United States Census indicates that well over 750,000 Californians claim Polish, Hungarian, or Czech ancestry; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California expresses its complete support for full inclusion of the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Hungary, and the Czech Republic into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to take all actions necessary to support inclusion of the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Hungary, and the Czech Republic as full members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the United States Senate to promptly ratify the proposed amendment to the North Atlantic Treaty to include the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Hungary, and the Czech Republic as full members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-409. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 47

Whereas, the State of Israel was founded on the 19th century Zionist vision of Theodor Herzl and came into existence on May 14, 1948, as a homeland for Jewish people from all parts of the world; and

Whereas, for half a century, Israel has been one of America's closest allies and has served as a stable, democratic anchor in a turbulent region; and

Whereas, Israel has shared America's perspective in advancing democracy and free markets worldwide and in offering humane treatment to refugees fleeing religious persecution; and

Whereas, Israel has served as an invaluable ally against both unstable, anti-Western states and terrorists, and has worked well with America's military, sharing key technological advances; and

Whereas, the longstanding and close emotional ties between Israel and the United States have forged an unshakable cultural bond between the two nations; and

Whereas, with the launching of the Middle East peace process, the United States looks forward to continuing its uniquely intimate relationship with the State of Israel in a new context characterized by peace, stability, and prosperity; and

Whereas, many Californians hold close personal ties to Israel and many more share the dream of a peaceful and prosperous Israel; and

Whereas, the State of Israel has been and continues to be a vital economic partner with this state in areas ranging from high technology to agriculture; and

Whereas, a year-long celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary, involving art exhibits, conferences, festivals, films, lectures, concerts, parties, religious services, and organized trips to Israel, has begun throughout the state; and

Whereas, when looking back upon the accomplishments of the State of Israel during its first 50 years, Americans should expect this special relationship with Israel to continue long into the foreseeable future; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby acknowledges the 50th anniversary of independence for the State of Israel and looks forward to the celebration of the centurion in the Jewish calendar year 5808; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature hereby extends its heartiest congratulations to the State of Israel and the entire Jewish and pro-Israel community throughout California upon the occasion of Israel's 50th anniversary of its founding and reaffirms the link of common culture and values between the Israeli and American peoples; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-410. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 2001

Whereas, in December, 1997, the United Nations framework convention on climate change met at Kyoto, Japan and adopted a treaty that commits the United States to reducing carbon dioxide emissions to seven percent below 1990 levels; and

Whereas, fears of global warming due to increased levels of carbon dioxide are not based on sound scientific evidence; and

Whereas, studies of past records of carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere show no correlation to global temperatures; and

Whereas, the general circulation models that have been developed to predict future global temperatures based on atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide have failed to produce credible results when compared to past records of global temperatures; and

Whereas, the adoption of the Kyoto treaty may lead to government control of industry through the imposition of carbon production permits, rationing and a tax levy on consumer carbon emissions, resulting in sharply increased costs and the loss of thousands of jobs; and

Whereas, many major countries, including certain Latin American and Asian nations, are exempt from the restrictions of the Kyoto treaty, putting the United States at a severe competitive disadvantage in the global economy.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the members of the Senate of the United States not ratify the Kyoto treaty adopted by the United Nations framework convention on climate change under its present terms and enact legislation prohibiting the adoption of an executive order or regulation attempting to make effective any provision of the treaty.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the Senate of the United States and to each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-411. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alabama; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 227

Whereas, private activity tax-exempt bonds finance many worthy projects with a public benefit such as environmental infrastructure projects, including sewage facilities, solid waste disposal facilities, hazardous waste disposal facilities, industrial development projects, student loans, and low-income housing project; and

Whereas, in 1988, Congress lowered the volume cap on the issuance of such bonds to \$50 per person, even though this cap is lower than the 1986 cap originally established, which fails to factor in the passage of time and inflation; and

Whereas, many of these worthy projects are not going forward due to the lack of available financing; and

Whereas, while taxable financing may be available, the cost of such financing can make a project economically unfeasible because most of these projects do not provide a positive rate of return; and

Whereas, the allocation of these bonds in Alabama has been oversubscribed for many years, and in 1997, applications exceeded allocations by a large percentage; and

Whereas, demand for private activity bond cap allocation will certainly continue to increase, given Alabama's growing economy, but the \$50 per person allocation will decrease in real value over time, increasing demand relative to the available ceiling; and

Whereas, unless Congress increases the volume cap and provides an inflation adjustment for the future, there will be fewer and fewer of these projects that will receive financing; and

Whereas, as entities decide to delay or cancel planned investments, economic growth will necessarily slow, causing negative ripple effects throughout the economy; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in the Congress of the United States that would increase the volume caps and index them for inflation in the future; now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of Alabama, both Houses thereof concurring, That we hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would increase the volume caps on private activity tax-exempt bonds.

Resolved further, That we request Congress to consider the impact of inflation in any future legislation concerning this issue.

Resolved further, That we request Congress to consider the funds for this program that are not used by other states should be allowed to be allocated to oversubscribed states such as Alabama.

Resolved further, That copies of this resolution be provided to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Alabama delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered on the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-412. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 211

Whereas, over the past quarter century, mortgage revenue bonds have helped many families in our state and across the country realize their goal of purchasing their first home. Mortgage revenue bonds help people of modest means gain a greater stake in their communities through home ownership. As many as 125,000 lower income families buy their first home each year through programs in the states financed with mortgage revenue bonds; and

Whereas, the cap on the amount of money the states can use for home ownership pro-

grams based on mortgage revenue bonds was last adjusted a decade ago. As a result, annual demand exceeds supply for mortgage revenue bond money by approximately \$2 billion; and

Whereas, mortgage revenue bonds help finance mortgages for buyers with nearly 80 percent of the national median income, with the average price of the homes also approximately 80 percent of average conventionally financed, first-time homes. The programs' requirements for income levels and the safeguards against abuse make this one of the most successful initiatives for home ownership in our country; and

Whereas, there are two bills currently before Congress that seek to raise the cap for mortgage revenue bonds. These bills, H.R. 979 and S. 1251, would amend the Internal Revenue Code to raise the cap. An important feature of the proposal is that this amount would be indexed to inflation, beginning in 1999. This is an approach that is long overdue; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to raise the cap on mortgage revenue bonds; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-413. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota; to the Committee on Finance.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, seventy-four percent of working-age adults with severe disabilities are unemployed; and

Whereas, many people with disabilities are highly dependent on local, state, and federal assistance for support and survival, particularly for necessary health care; and

Whereas, a 1995 Lou Harris poll reported that two-thirds of unemployed people with disabilities are eager to work; and

Whereas, advances in technology, the civil rights protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the current labor shortage are opening up many new employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and

Whereas, current government policies, particularly those relating to Medicaid, discourage people with disabilities from working; and

Whereas, existing Medicaid work incentives are flawed and are completely unavailable to people with disabilities who do not qualify for the SSI 1619(b) program; and

Whereas, removing policy barriers to employment would enable more people with disabilities to reduce their dependence on Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, subsidized housing, food stamps, and other state, local, and federal government programs; and

Whereas, becoming employed allows individuals with disabilities to contribute to society by becoming taxpayers themselves; and

Whereas, employer-based health care and government programs, such as Medicare, Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association, and MinnesotaCare, do not typically cover long-term supports needed by people with disabilities; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, That it urges the Congress of the United States to adopt Medicaid buy-in legislation that would allow people with permanent disabilities to retain Medicaid coverage to address unmet health needs when they become employed; be it further

Resolved, That such Medicaid buy-in legislation should require individuals to take advantage of employer-based health coverage,

if available and affordable, and should further require individuals to purchase needed Medicaid coverage on a sliding fee scale, based on their ability to pay; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

POM-414. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4030

Whereas, Medicaid has emerged as the most important governmental program to provide health and long-term care services to low-income persons and such program has continued to grow substantially placing an ever-growing demand on budgets of the national and state governments, and if the spiraling costs of Medicaid is left unchecked it will continue to have a detrimental effect on the social and economic viability of our communities; and

Whereas, Although it is well accepted by the people and most policymakers that public programs can be more effective and efficiently administered in our states and communities without excessive regulations, Medicaid remains highly bureaucratic granting flexibility to states sparingly and only after an extensive and costly waiver process; and

Whereas, The recent success of welfare reform is closely associated with the degree of flexibility granted states in administering that program and that similar success can be realized in Medicaid if states are given the same authority;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the President submit and Congress quickly pass legislation that grants states extensive flexibility in the use of Medicaid funding for acute and long-term care services.

Be It Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

POM-415. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 358

Whereas, four domestic producers of stainless steel products have filed a complaint with the Department of Commerce alleging that the subsidies and other practices of several foreign companies have allowed foreign companies to sell stainless steel products in the American marketplace at prices well below what they are being sold for in their home markets; and

Whereas, preliminary findings released by the Department of Commerce indicate that the allegations of dumping relating to certain stainless steel products have merit; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives memorialize the Congress of the United States to urge the Department of Commerce to continue in a timely fashion this ongoing investigation and to take the matter before the International Trade Commission for the imposition of appropriate sanctions; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-416. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alabama; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 261

Whereas, separation of powers is fundamental to the United States Constitution and the power of the federal government is strictly limited; and

Whereas, under the United States Constitution, the states are to determine public policy; and

Whereas, it is the duty of the judiciary to interpret the law, not to create law; and

Whereas, our present federal government has strayed from the intent of our founding fathers and the United States Constitution through inappropriate federal mandates; and

Whereas, these mandates by way of statute, rule, or judicial decision have forced state governments to serve as the mere administrative arm of the federal government; and

Whereas, federal district courts, with the acquiescence of the United States Supreme Court, continue to order states to levy or increase taxes to comply with federal mandates, in violation of the United States Constitution and the legislative process; and

Whereas, the time has come for the people of this great nation and their duly elected representatives in state government, to reaffirm, in no uncertain terms, that the authority to tax under the Constitution of the United States is retained by the people who, by their consent alone, do delegate such power to tax explicitly to those duly elected representatives in the legislative branch of government whom they choose, such representatives being directly responsible and accountable to those who have elected them; and

Whereas, several states have petitioned the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America which was previously introduced in Congress; and

Whereas, the amendment seeks to prevent federal courts from levying or increasing taxes without representation of the people and against the people's wishes; now therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of Alabama, both Houses thereof concurring, as follows:

1. That we hereby urge the Congress of the United States to prepare and submit to the several states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to add a new article providing as follows:

"Neither the Supreme Court nor any inferior court of the United States shall have the power to instruct or order a state or a political subdivision thereof, or an official of such a state or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes."

2. That this resolution constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

3. That we urge the legislatures of each of the several states comprising the United States that have not yet made a similar request to apply to the United States Congress requesting enactment of an appropriate amendment to the United States Constitution, and apply to the United States Congress to propose such an amendment in the United States Constitution.

4. That copies of this resolution be provided to the President and Vice President of the United States, the presiding officer in each house of the legislature in each of the states in the union, the Speaker of the

United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and to each member of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.

POM-417. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Whereas, the National Crime Victimization Survey from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, United States Department of Justice reports that in 1992 and 1993, nearly five million women age twelve or older were victims of violent crimes annually; and

Whereas, these acts of violence included homicide, rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault; and

Whereas, domestic violence is not just a household, home, or family problem but is a societal problem; and

Whereas, over the past twenty years there has been an increased acknowledgment of violence against women; and

Whereas, each year violence against women continues to be a major cause of injury to women:

(1) more than one thousand women, about four every day, die as a result of domestic violence;

(2) domestic violence continues to be a leading cause of homicide in our states,

(3) fifty percent of the men who abuse their female partners also abuse their children; and

Whereas, more than half of the female children who witness violence in the home become victims of domestic violence as adults; and

Whereas, in 1994, the Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (Public Law No. 103-322, 42 U.S.C. §3796, et seq.) which gave states funding to create programs to help improve the responses of victim service providers and law enforcement authorities to violence against women and provided for vigorous apprehension and prosecution of persons committing crimes against women; and

Whereas, Congress will be considering reauthorization of this Act under the Violence Against Women Act of 1998 which seek funding to continue the important programs originally enacted in the first Violence Against Women Act of 1994; additional funding for new programs to address other issues including child custody, insurance discrimination, legal services eligibility, medical training, workplace safety, and campus crime; and funding for training programs for social service providers and law enforcement officials to target violence against older women, disabled women, and provisions to address the special needs of battered immigrant women; therefore, be it

Resolved That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to support reauthorization of and funding for the Violence Against Women Act of 1998; be it further

Resolved That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-418. A resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees, Northville Township, Michigan relative to land use zoning authority; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-419. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Romulus, Michigan relative to land use zoning authority; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-420. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

Whereas, Article V of the United States Constitution provides two methods by which the Constitution may be amended: by presentation of an amendment by Congress to the states for ratification and by Constitutional Convention, convened at the request of the state legislatures; and

Whereas, to date, the Constitution has been amended only by means of the first method, with many experts suggesting that a Constitutional Convention contains the inherent danger of altering the Constitution more extensively than the proponents of the Convention might have intended; and

Whereas, by providing both methods of amending the Constitution, the Framers clearly intended to provide a mechanism by which the several states could initiate the Constitutional amendment process but did not anticipate the later reluctance to convene a Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, House Joint Resolution No. 84, introduced in the 105th Congress by Virginia Congressman Tom Bliley and cosponsored by Virginia Congressman Virgil Goode, proposes a process by which the states could initiate the amending process without the perils of a Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, under the proposal, "two thirds of the legislatures of the several states may propose an amendment to the Constitution by enacting identical legislation in each such legislature proposing the amendment"; and

Whereas, if two-thirds of the House and Senate did not vote to disapprove of the proposed amendment, it would be submitted to the states for ratification, and upon ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures, the amendment would become part of the Constitution; and

Whereas, Congressman Bliley's Constitutional Amendment is a reasonable and prudent proposal to provide the states with a means of modifying the Constitution of the United States, thus providing the states an option that the Framers clearly intended; now, therefore, be it

Resolved By the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby urge the Congress to approve House Joint Resolution No. 84, which proposes an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide a means by which the states can initiate the amendment process without the necessity of a Constitutional Convention; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Congressional delegation of Virginia so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, with amendments:

S. 1415: A bill to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations: Special Report entitled "Allocation to Subcommittees on Budget Totals From the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1999" (Rept. 105-191).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

Douglas S. Eakeley, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 1999. (Reappointment)

Jeanne Hurley Simon, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2002. (Reappointment)

Cyril Kent McGuire, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education.

William James Ivey, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

Raymond L. Bramucci, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Seth D. Harris, of New York, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Robert H. Beatty, Jr., of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring August 30, 2004. (Reappointment)

Thomas Ehrlich, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term of five years. (Reappointment)

Dorothy A. Johnson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term of five years.

Rita R. Colwell, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Science Foundation for a term of six years.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

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. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 2079. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to replace the dependent care credit for children age 5 and under with an increase in the amount of the child tax credit for such children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MACK, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. REID, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROTH, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HUTCHISON, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. THOMPSON):

S. 2080. A bill to provide for the President to increase support to the democratic opposition in Cuba, to authorize support under the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 for the provision and transport of increased humanitarian assistance directly to the oppressed people of Cuba to help them regain their freedom, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2081. A bill to guarantee the long-term national security of the United States by investing in a robust Defense Science and Technology Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 2082. A bill to amend chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, to provide authority to fix rates and fees for domestic and international postal services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 2083. A bill to provide for Federal class action reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2084. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to cease mineral leasing activity on submerged land of the Outer Continental Shelf that is adjacent to a coastal State that has declared a moratorium on mineral exploration, development, or production activity in adjacent State waters; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON:

S. 2085. A bill to assist small businesses and labor organizations in defending themselves against Government bureaucracy; to protect the right of employers to have a hearing to present their case in certain representation cases; and to prevent the use of the National Labor Relations Act for the purpose of disrupting or inflicting economic harm on employers; 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. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. Con. Res. 96. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a postage stamp should be issued honoring Oskar Schindler; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 2079. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to replace the dependent care credit for children age 5 and under with an increase in the amount of the child tax credit for such children; to the Committee on Finance.

CHILD TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen, I rise today to introduce legislation to change the Tax Code to put stay-at-home moms and dads on an equal footing with two-income families. My legislation is cosponsored by Senators HATCH, GRAMS, WYDEN, and ABRAHAM. This legislation that we introduce will