

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the Senate amendment to House amendment to Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2472) to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 171. Concurrent resolution declaring the city of Roanoke, Virginia, to be the official site of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 512. An act to establish requirements relating to the designation of new units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

H.R. 1023. An act to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1522. An act to extend the authorization for the National Historic Preservation Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2202. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the bone marrow donor program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2556. An act to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

H.R. 2652. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to prevent the misappropriation of collections of information.

H.R. 3039. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to guarantee loans to provide multifamily transitional housing for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3534. An act to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3603. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3718. An act to limit the jurisdiction of the Federal courts with respect to prison release orders.

H.R. 3809. An act to authorize appropriations for the United States Customs Service for fiscal years 1999 and 2000, and for other purposes.

## MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 512. An act to establish requirements relating to the designation of new units of the National Wildlife Refuge System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1023. An act to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

H.R. 1522. An act to extend the authorization for the National Historic Preservation

Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2202. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the bone marrow donor program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

H.R. 2556. An act to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2652. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to prevent the misappropriation of collections of information; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3039. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to guarantee loans to provide multifamily transitional housing for homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3603. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3718. An act to limit the jurisdiction of the Federal courts with respect to prison release orders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3809. An act to authorize appropriations for the United States Customs Service for fiscal years 1999 and 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one committee reports the other committee have thirty days to report or be discharged, the following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3534. An act to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 30. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Republic of China should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance:

Patrick A. Mulloy, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Thelma J. Askey, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 16, 2000.

Jennifer Anne Hillman, of Indiana, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for the term expiring December 16, 2006.

Stephen Koplan, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for the term expiring June 16, 2005.

(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. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 2094. A bill to amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to more effectively use the proceeds of sales of certain items; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WARNER, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOND, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 2095. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 2096. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel FOILCAT; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 2097. A bill to encourage and facilitate the resolution of conflicts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

S. 2098. A bill to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 2099. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal sentencing guidelines for counterfeiting offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. MACK, and Mr. FAIRCLOTH):

S. 2100. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase public awareness concerning crime on college and university campuses; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. 2101. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research and services with respect to lupus; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 2102. A bill to promote democracy and good governance in Nigeria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. HATCH, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2103. A bill to provide protection from personal intrusion for commercial purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 2104. A bill to authorize the Automobile National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 2094. A bill to amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to more effectively use the proceeds of sales of certain items; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I am introducing a bill today to amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978.

This bill will allow the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce to more effectively use proceeds from the sale of forfeited and abandoned wildlife items.

Mr. President, there is a warehouse in Commerce City, Colorado, operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is filled with wildlife parts and products.

It is the National Repository for items that have been forfeited or abandoned to the U.S. Government and are being held for disposition by the Service.

Some of these items are quite unusual: mounted rhinoceros, coral jewelry, stuffed alligators, elephant foot footstools.

Some of these items are endangered or otherwise protected by law, and it is illegal to import them into the United States.

Those companies or individuals who were caught trying to do so either abandoned the items or they were forfeited to the U.S. Government through a legal process.

The Service distributes these wildlife items to museums and to schools for conservation education programs around the country.

Anyone who flew through Denver's old Stapleton Airport, for instance, might have seen a display in the main terminal reminding travelers about various laws regulating importation of wildlife and wildlife products.

A similar display is being erected at Denver International Airport.

In addition to the unusual wildlife specimens stored at the Service's Colorado Repository are some more familiar items such as leather boots, jackets, purses, watchbands, and sea shells.

These are in the possession of the Service because, in many cases, the required foreign export permits were not obtained or the items were falsely identified.

Although it is legal to possess and sell many of these wildlife items, there is, of course, a procedure for importing them. This includes obtaining the required foreign export permits prior to

importation and properly declaring the items.

If these procedures are not followed correctly, then the items can be seized.

Abandonment or forfeiture actions are then initiated with title being transferred to the Government.

Many times, however, the people who try to bring them in will just abandon them to the Service.

These items are retained by the Service at the Commerce City facility until an appropriate disposition can be made.

I want to take just a moment here to point out that the Repository in question is located on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal northeast of Denver.

This inactive military facility is in the middle of a transformation from a Superfund site to the largest urban wildlife refuge in the country.

The Arsenal, which once produced nerve agents and chemical weapons, is now a haven for eagles, migratory birds, deer, and other wildlife.

I've been told that there is hope to one day introduce bison back into the 27 square mile facility.

The old Arsenal will become a new gem in the National Wildlife Refuge System, and an excellent resource for the people of Colorado.

A Service priority for disposing of these wildlife items is to utilize them in scientific and educational programs.

There are, however, many items in the Repository inventory excess to the needs of these scientific and educational programs.

Those excess items which are not given a high level of protection—those that are not endangered, or marine mammals, or migratory birds—can legally be sold on the open market.

If these surplus items were sold by the Service at an auction, they would generate proceeds which could be used to offset operational costs of the Repository, thereby allowing for a more efficient use of appropriated funds by the Service and a saving of money for the tax payers.

But there is a hitch. Current law mandates proceeds from the sale except for those that can be used for rewards, must be returned to the General Treasury.

This sounds fine, until you consider the mechanics of holding an auction.

An auctioneer charges a commission which is usually a percentage of the proceeds from a sale.

Since the Service estimates that they have about one million-dollars worth of surplus wildlife items on hand, which is a 10 year backlog, they can expect to pay the auctioneer a commission of around 15 percent or about \$150,000.

Now, the budget for the Repository in Fiscal Year 1998 is \$310,000 with salaries alone costing 80 percent of that number. They simply cannot pay about half of their funding towards an auctioneer's commission, and that is what they would have to do under current law.

Although a sale would bring in money, the majority of the proceeds would go to the General Treasury, and the Service would have to use money already in their operational budget to pay for the sale.

Needless to say, there are not enough funds to pay the auctioneer's commission, so the auction does not take place and the wildlife property sits and decays.

What this bill would do is allow the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Commerce Department, to keep the proceeds from the selling of wildlife products at an auction.

The money would be used for very specific purposes.

These purposes, except for one, are all related to the task of storing, shipping and disposing of the forfeited and abandoned items located around the country.

The other uses of the funds I will explain in just a minute.

This bill specifically says that the Services can use the proceeds of the sale for:

- (1) Shipping items from one location to another;
- (2) Storage and security of the items;
- (3) Appraisal of the items;
- (4) Sale of the items—this is necessary to pay an auctioneer's commission; and
- (5) Payment of any valid liens against the objects.

As you can see, this will not allow the Services to establish a slush fund for their use.

The bill requires the money may be used only to continue paying for rewards, storage and shipping of the property, and to facilitate the disposal of the items, thereby making them available for the people of the United States.

The other use for the proceeds is very special.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers a program that provides for the distribution of dead eagles to Native Americans so they may be used for religious and cultural purposes.

As you probably know, bald and golden eagles are highly protected and it is illegal for anyone to kill an eagle or possess an eagle carcass or its feathers.

The way the program is set up, dead eagles are sent to the National Eagle Repository, which is also located on Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Commerce City, Colorado.

There they are cataloged, processed, and shipped to Native Americans.

Even though the Repository distributes about 1,000 eagles to Native Americans each year, there is currently about a three year wait to receive an eagle carcass. This is because of the limited number of eagles being received at the Repository.

Most have been trapped, or electrocuted, or have collided with power lines and cars—they are not in very good shape.

When an eagle is received by the Repository, attempts are made to match