

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:15 a.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, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 927. An act to reauthorize the Sea Grant Program.

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. 202. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government should acknowledge the importance of at-home parents and should not discriminate against families who forgo a second income in order for a mother or father to be at home with their children.

The message further announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 210(c)(1) of Public Law 105-119, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Census Monitoring Board: Mr. J. Kenneth Blackwell of Ohio and Mr. David W. Murray of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 3162(b) of Public Law 104-201, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the Commission on Maintaining United States Nuclear Weapons Expertise: Mr. Robert B. Barker of California and Mr. Roland F. Herbst of California.

The message further announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 955(b)(1)(B) of Public Law 105-83, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the National Council on the Arts: Mr. DOOLITTLE of California and Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 491 of the Higher Education Act, as amended by section 407 of Public Law 99-498, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member of the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a three-year term: Mr. Henry Givens of Missouri.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1248. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for vessel SUMMER BREEZE (Rept. No. 105-161).

S. 1272. 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 ARCELLA (Rept. No. 105-162).

S. 1235. 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 registered as State of Oregon official number OR 766 YE (Rept. No. 105-163).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. Res. 148. A resolution designating 1998 as the "Onate Cuartocentenario", the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Richard L. Young, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana.

Edward F. Shea, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Jeremy D. Fogel, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Beverly Baldwin Martin, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Hiram Arthur Contreras, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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:

S. 1635. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the maximum capital gains rates, to index capital assets for inflation, and to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 1636. A bill to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1637. A bill to expedite State review of criminal records of applicants for bail enforcement officer employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DODD, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KERREY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BREAU, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1638. A bill to help parents keep their children from starting to use tobacco products, to expose the tobacco industry's past misconduct and to stop the tobacco industry from targeting children, to eliminate or greatly reduce the illegal use of tobacco products by children, to improve the public health by reducing the overall use of to-

bacco, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 1639. A bill to amend the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 to cover Federal facilities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 1640. A bill to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at East Kellogg Boulevard in Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the "Eugene J. McCarthy Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 1641. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study alternatives for establishing a national historic trail to commemorate and interpret the history of women's rights in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GLENN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1642. A bill to improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, simplify Federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, and improve the delivery of services to the public; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1643. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay for one year implementation of the per beneficiary limits under the interim payment system to home health agencies and to provide for a later base year for the purposes of calculating new payment rates under the system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DODD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 1644. A bill to amend subpart 4 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding Grants to States for State Student Incentives; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. COATS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KYL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BOND, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1645. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines to avoid laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. BUMPERS):

S. 1646. A bill to repeal a provision of law preventing donation by the Secretary of the Navy of the two remaining Iowa-class battleships listed on the Naval Vessel Register and related requirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. KENNEDY) (by request):

S. 1647. A bill to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1648. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to provide for reductions in youth smoking, for advancements in tobacco-related research, and the development of safer tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. FORD:

S. 1649. A bill to exempt disabled individuals from being required to enroll with a managed care entity under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN:

S. 1650. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on synthetic quartz substrates; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1651. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,4-bis(octylthio)methyl-o-cresol; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1652. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,4-bis(octylthio)methyl-o-cresol; epoxidized triglyceride; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1653. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-((4,6-bis(octylthio)-1,3,4-triazine-2-yl)amino)-2,6-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenol; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1654. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-Hydroxy cyclohexyl phenyl ketone; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1655. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-1-propane; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1656. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on bis(2,4,6-trimethyl benzoyl) phenyl phosphine oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1657. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on bis(2,6-dimethoxy-benzoyl)-2,4-trimethyl pentyl phosphinenoxide and 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-1-propanone; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1658. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on (2-Benzothiazolylthio)-butane-dioic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1659. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on calcium bis(monooethyl(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) phosphonate); to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1660. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-(dimethylamino)-1-(4-morpholinyl)-2-(phenylmethyl)-1-butanone; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1661. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on N-Ethylmorpholine, compd. with 3-(4-methylbenzoyl) propanoic acid (1:2); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 1662. A bill to authorize the Navajo Indian irrigation project to use power allocated to it from the Colorado River storage project for on-farm uses; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIBBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. CLELAND):

S. Res. 176. A resolution proclaiming the week of October 18 through October 24, 1998, as "National Character Counts Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HAGEL, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN):

S. Res. 177. A resolution recognizing, and calling on all Americans to recognize, the courage and sacrifice of the members of the Armed Forces held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and stating that the American people will not forget that more than 2,000 members of the Armed Forces remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict and will continue to press for the fullest possible accounting for all such members whose whereabouts are unknown; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 178. A resolution to authorize production of Senate documents and representation by Senate Legal Counsel in United States f.u.b.o. Kimberly Industries, Inc., et al. v. Trafalgar House Construction, Inc., et al.; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. Con. Res. 76. A concurrent resolution enforcing the embargo on the export of oil from Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

S. Con. Res. 77. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Federal government should acknowledge the importance of at-home parents and should not discriminate against families who forego a second income in order for a mother or father to be at home with their children; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 1635. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the maximum capital gains rates, to index capital assets for inflation, and to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers; to the Committee on Finance.

CAPITAL GAINS AND ESTATE TAX REFORM LEGISLATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I spent the month of January attending town meetings throughout the State of Colorado. That is one of the things, when I go back to my State, that I spend a lot of time doing—visiting the counties and visiting with the people of Colorado. Over the years, we continue to have the issue of taxes brought up in the town meetings—probably more so now than at any time that I can recall since having town meetings.

The American people simply want to have their tax system reformed, particularly those in Colorado. They want lower taxes, they want a simpler tax system, and they want less intrusive means of collecting those taxes.

Last year, Congress enacted modest tax relief, but it was only a first step. It's time to move forward with more aggressive tax reform.

Today, I am introducing legislation that will do four things:

It will continue to reduce the capital gains tax to a top rate of 14 percent.

It will restore the one-year holding period for capital gains treatment.

It will index capital gains and, thereby, eliminate the taxation of gains that are due solely to inflation.

And then, finally, it will eliminate the estate tax.

These changes will provide important tax relief for families and businesses, and continue to ensure that our economy remains the most competitive in the world.

Mr. President, the new year has certainly brought good news concerning the Federal budget. But let's be honest. The budget is balancing because of the hard work of the American people, not because of any bold action by the Federal Government. Economic performance in recent years has exceeded all expectations. The result is that the American people have been sending greater and greater amounts of their earnings to Washington. The budget is balancing because of an explosion in tax receipts, not because of any restraint in spending. In fact, the budget continues to grow at a healthy pace. Federal spending in 1998 is estimated to be 4.3 percent above the 1997 level—well in excess of inflation. Many would like this to continue.

The President assured us in a previous State of the Union Address that, "the era of big Government is over." But it is clear that he is now proposing a new era of big Government.

I favor a different course. We should not squander the people's surplus on more Government. Instead, we should begin to pay down the debt and reform the tax system. We should put American families ahead of the insatiable appetite of Washington, DC, for more Government spending.

Despite last year's budget bill, taxes remain higher than they have ever been. Tax freedom day—the day to which the average American works to pay the combined Federal, State, and local tax burden—is May 9, which is the latest it has ever been. A reduction in the Federal debt and a reasonable level of taxation should be the twin objectives of Congress as we enter the next century. Our job is to ensure that the bridge to the 21st century does not become a toll bridge.

Mr. President, let me begin with a discussion of capital gains taxes. I call the capital gains tax the "growth tax." Nearly all Americans own capital, and they experience a tax on that capital when they sell the stocks, or a small business, or a farm.

Mr. President, let's look at how this capital gains, or growth tax, hits ordinary working Americans. Stock ownership has doubled in the last 7 years, to the point where 43 percent of all adult Americans own stock. Obviously, with those numbers, stock ownership is not just confined to the wealthy; it is spread throughout society. Today, half of the investors are women, and half are noncollege graduates. Stocks are typically held for retirement, education expenses, and other long-term goals. This is precisely the type of saving and investing that we need in our economy.

Mr. President, I can't leave this topic without talking about small business owners and farmers. There is no clearer area where the "growth tax" makes no