On page 55, line 4, strike ''$4,800,000,000'' and insert ''$4,794,500,000''.

KENNEDY AMENDMENT NO. 448

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 420 proposed by Mr. HATFIELD to the bill, H.R. 1158, supra, as follows:

At the appropriate place in the amdt, insert the following;

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING TAX AVOIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should act as quickly as possible to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to eliminate the ability of persons to avoid taxes by relinquishing their United States citizenship.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the amendment referred to in subsection (a) should take effect as if enacted on February 6, 1995.

BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS COMMEMORATION

SMITH AMENDMENT NO. 449

Mr. SMITH proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Ringling Bros., and Barnum & Bailey Circus anniversary commemoration; as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 9 through 13, and insert the following: ''performers, on the Capitol Grounds, on April 3, 1995, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President pro tempore of the Senate may jointly designate.

SEC. 2. CONDITIONS.

No elephants shall be allowed on the Capitol Grounds for the purpose of this event.''.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will be holding an oversight hearing on Wednesday, April 5, 1995, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building on providing direct funding through block grants to tribes to administer welfare and other social service programs.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 224–2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOREIGN COMMERCE AND TOURISM

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce and Tourism of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet Monday, April 3, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. on S. 565, the Product Liability Fairness Act of 1995.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAXATION AND IRS OVERSIGHT

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight of the Finance Committee be permitted to meet Monday, April 3, 1995, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room SD–215, to conduct a hearing on the research and experimentation [R&E] tax credit.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSITION ON CERTAIN VOTES

• Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, on March 30, 1995, I was necessarily absent from rollcall votes. If I were present on that day, I would have voted as follows: ''Yea'' on rollcall vote No. 121 to lay on the table the amendment of the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY]; ''nay'' on rollcall vote No. 122 to lay on the table amendment No. 435 of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY]; ''yea'' on rollcall vote No. 123 to lay on the table amendment No. 436 of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER]; ''yea'' on rollcall vote No. 124 on amendment No. 437 of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY]; and ''yea'' on rollcall vote No. 125 to lay on the table amendment No. 438 of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID].•

HONG KONG

• Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, the week before last I had the pleasure of cohosting a breakfast with Congressman GILMAN for Lu Ping. Mr. Lu is the head of the People's Republic of China's Office of Hong Kong and Macau Affairs, as well as a body known as the Preliminary Working Committee. In other words, he is the Chinese official in charge of overseeing the transition of Hong Kong from a dependent territory of the United Kingdom to a special administrative region under the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China in the summer of 1997.

Mr. Lu and his group were, in effect, on a public relations tour of the United States to convince policymakers here—as well as an audience back home—that Hong Kong will continue to thrive as a bastion of capitalism after 1997. Mr. Lu did his job well. He spoke eloquently and reassuringly, painting a rosy picture for the colony's future without sounding phony or unrealistic. While I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with Mr. Lu and hear his views, I have a concern with his pronouncements which I would like to share with my colleagues.

Despite his polished presentation it seemed to me that his views diverged little, if at all, from the official party line. Certainly, this was not entirely unexpected. Members of the PRC bureaucracy are not often given to flights of independence of thought or opinion. While he certainly seemed genuine and straight-forward, I could not shake the feeling that his statements were simply a glossy version of what we have been hearing from Beijing on this topic for some time. He spoke at length about how Hong Kong's present status would be protected, but said nothing substantive about the mechanics of that protection. As a writer for the Nanhua Zaobao, South China Morning Post, so accurately put it:

> [D]espite having an excellent ambassador in the eloquent English-speaking Mr. Lu, and in spite of the articulate back-up of sharp minds like those of Rita Fan and Simon Lee, the fact remained that they had—to American earns at least—very little to say. The style was good, but the U.S. needs a lot more meat in its sandwiches.

Moreover, while painting a picture of a bright fairy-tale scene full of sunshine and singing birds, Mr. Lu neglected to peer at the troll under the bridge: The increasing threats made to the rule of law in Hong Kong. In 1984, the People's Republic of China and Great Britain finalized a document known as the Joint Declaration. The declaration set forth PRC guarantees for Hong Kong's continued autonomy after 1997, an elected local legislature, and the continuation of its common-law legal system. Unfortunately, since that time Beijing has acted in such a way so as to call its commitment to these basic principles into question. In 1990, the National People's Congress enacted what is known as the Basic Law, the statutes that will govern Hong Kong after 1997. In contravention of the Joint Declaration, it—inter alia—subordinates the colony's legislative council to an executive appointed by Beijing, and assigns a power of judicial interpretation not to the local courts but to the Standing Committee of the People's Congress. In 1993, a senior official of the PRC's judicial branch intimated that the People's Republic of China will replace Hong Kong's common-law system with one more closely resembling China's where the civil law is merely an extension of the party.

Finally, and most ominously in my opinion, the People's Republic of China has called into doubt its commitment to establish a Court of Final Appeal in Hong Kong. Presently, final judicial decisions are appealable to the Privy Council in London. Of course, that cannot continue to be the case after reversion, and one of the principle concerns of the residents of the colony is that, after 1997, local legal decisions continue to be appealable to a court with interests not inimicable to the common law and judicial independence from extralegal influences. Without a local final appeals court, they worry—rightly in my opinion—that the final arbiter of the law in Hong Kong will be a party cadre in Beijing. So, the Joint Declaration provided for the establishment of a Court of Final Appeal [CFR]. Since that time, however, there has