

amazed me to hear how many resources are tied up with paperwork generating, reporting requirements, and tracking. If it wasn't required by law, I wouldn't be surprised if schools refused to enroll children with disabilities. The amount of time it takes a school employee to keep up with the regulations, the amount of financial resources that are used to document school activities and student performance—it's almost a miracle that the school has the time to educate the children.

When we reduce the paperwork, the reporting requirements, the documentation, we free up time and money to devote to the education of our children and we allow those children with disabilities to achieve as much as they can possibly achieve. It allows the teacher to get back to the classroom, the administrator to get back to making sure the school is safe and the curriculum is top-notch, and the parents to rest easy knowing that their child is receiving the same educational opportunities every other child is receiving.

But one of the most common remarks I've heard from Montana schools is that they need more flexibility. And this bill gives them that. In particular, the question of discipline is often raised. Current law prohibits schools from suspending a disabled child for more than 30 days even if the child brought in a dangerous weapon or threatened a teacher or student. S. 1578 gives the school some flexibility in deciding how to handle that violation. If a child with a disability violates such a policy, that child may be suspended for up to 10 school days. In that time, the IEP team may designate an alternative placement for up to 35 days. And, if the behavior was not related to the disability, the child can be disciplined as any other nondisabled child would be.

Mr. President, I want to make sure that all children have access to a free, appropriate public education. Whether a child has a disability, mental or physical, whether a child is poor or disadvantaged, whether the parents of schoolaged children have the resources to afford special care or not—we need to take the responsibility of educating our future generations very seriously.

And there is a balance we need to maintain. Order and discipline in our schools is essential to creating an environment conducive to learning, for disabled and nondisabled children alike. There should be a balance between the parents involvement and the schools efforts in educating a child with disabilities. And there is a balance to be kept between making sure schools are accountable for the Federal dollars they receive and overburdening them with red tape. This bill, S. 1578, strikes that balance.

I join my colleagues in supporting this important legislation and I commend Senator FRIST for his hard work in making sure that both parents and schools were consulted in proposing these changes. With the bipartisan support it enjoyed in the Labor Commit-

tee, I look forward to seeing this bill brought to the Senate floor soon. Our Nation's future—our children—depend on it.

SECRETARY RON BROWN AND BARRY CONRAD

• Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I offer my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and to all of the other families who have lost a loved one in this terrible tragedy.

It is never easy to lose someone close to you. Yet I believe those that Commerce Secretary Brown left behind—his wife Alma, his daughter Tracey, and his son Michael—can be comforted and given strength by the knowledge that Ron Brown died doing what he loved: Representing the President as Commerce Secretary and serving America by promoting American economic interests abroad.

Secretary Brown will be remembered for his commitment to our democracy, his charisma, and the enthusiasm with which he embraced new ideas and challenges. I will keep Alma, Tracey, Michael, and all others who are mourning this great loss, in my thoughts and prayers during their time of grief.

I would also like to offer my condolences at this time to the family of Barry L. Conrad who was accompanying Secretary Brown on his trip to the Balkans. Mr. Conrad was the founder of the Barrington Group, a dynamic hotel company in Miami, and had previously headed Burger King's U.S. franchise operation.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Mr. Conrad was a very prominent and well-respected member of the south Florida community. This is a great loss not only for the family and friends of Mr. Conrad but for the entire State of Florida.

I am praying for the Conrad family, and all others who are mourning as a result of this tragedy. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:54 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 842. An act to provide off-budget treatment for the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 255. An act to designate the Federal Justice Building in Miami, Florida, as the "James Lawrence King Federal Justice Building."

H.R. 869. An act to designate the Federal building and U.S. Courthouse located at 125 Market Street in Youngstown, Ohio, as the "Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse."

H.R. 1804. An act to designate the United States Post Office-Courthouse located at South 6th and Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, as the "Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building."

H.R. 2415. An act to designate the United States Customs Administrative Building at the Ysleta/Zaragoza Port of Entry located at 797 South Ysleta in El Paso, Texas, as the "Timothy C. McCaghen Customs Administrative Building."

H.R. 2556. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, California, and known as the Earth Sciences and Library Building, as the "Vincent E. McKelvey Federal Building."

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 4:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 735) to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes.

MEASURED REFERRED

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. 842. An act to provide off-budget treatment for the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2262. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals dated April 1,

1996; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to the Committee on Armed Services, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, to the Committee on Finance, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2263. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of proposed rescissions of budgetary resources; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, and to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2264. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of activities for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2265. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to requests for extraordinary contractual relief; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2266. A communication from the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to foreign aviation authorities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2267. A communication from the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2268. A communication from the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Aviation System Capital Investment Plan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2269. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of accomplishments during fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2270. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to export vessels; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2271. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Department of Transportation Regulatory Reform Act of 1996"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2272. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on waste disposal sites; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2273. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "The Automotive Fuel Economy Program"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2274. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Airport Improvement Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2275. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on tanker simulator training; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2276. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on tanker navigation safety standards; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2277. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the evaluation of oil tanker routing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 811. A bill to authorize research into the desalinization and reclamation of water and authorize a program for States, cities, or qualifying agencies desiring to own and operate a water desalinization or reclamation facility to develop such facilities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-254).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. Stevens, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

Robert E. Morin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's 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. SARBANES:

S. 1682. 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 *Liberty*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1683. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to regard adult relatives who meet State child protection standards as the preferred placement option for children, and to provide for demonstration projects to test the feasibility of establishing kinship care as an alternative to foster care for a child who has adult relatives willing to provide safe and appropriate care for the child; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 1684. A bill to require that applications for passports for minors have parental signatures; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1685. A bill to provide income and economic security to the American family, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FORD (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 1686. A bill to provide for early deferred annuities under chapter 83 of Title 5, United

States Code, for certain former Department of Defense employees who are separated from service by reason of certain defense base closures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1687. A bill to provide for annual payments from the surplus funds of the Federal Reserve System to cover the interest on obligations issued by the Financing Corporation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. SIMON, Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. ROTH, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. LUGAR):

S.J. Res. 51. A joint resolution saluting and congratulating Polish people around the world as, on May 3, 1996, they commemorate the 205th anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. SIMON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. PELL):

S. Res. 248. A resolution relating to the violence in Liberia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1683. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to regard adult relatives who meet State child protection standards as the preferred placement option for children, and to provide for demonstration projects to test the feasibility of establishing kinship care as an alternative to foster care for a child who has adult relatives willing to provide safe and appropriate care for the child; to the Committee on Finance.

THE KINSHIP CARE ACT OF 1996

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I introduce the Kinship Care Act of 1996. Today Representative Connie Morella is introducing companion legislation in the House.

Grandparents caring for grandchildren represent one of the most underappreciated natural resources in our Nation. They hold tremendous potential for curing one of our society's most pressing maladies: The care of children who have no parents, or whose parents simply aren't up to the task of providing children a stable, secure and nurturing living environment.

There is such a great reservoir of love and experience available to us, and more especially to the tens of thousands of American children who desperately need basic care giving. We provide public assistance to strangers for this kind of care, but the folks available to provide foster care homes are in short supply.

At the same time, inflexibility in current regulations often force us to