

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1827. A bill to prohibit foreign travel by outgoing political appointees and Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEFLIN:

S. 1828. 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 TOP GUN, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PRESSLER:

S. 1829. A bill to prohibit the purchase of foreign beef by a school participating in the school lunch, school breakfast, or child care food program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWN (for Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ROTH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GORTON, and Mr. MCCONNELL)):

S. 1830. A bill to amend the NATO Participation Act of 1994 to expedite the transition to full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization of emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. FORD):

S. 1831. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999 for the National Transportation Safety Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1832. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that a monthly insurance benefit thereunder shall be paid for the month in which the recipient dies, subject to a reduction of 50 percent if the recipient dies during the first 15 days of such month, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GLENN (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) (by request):

S. 1833. A bill to expand a temporary authority for the use of voluntary separation incentives by Federal agencies that are reducing employment levels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SIMON, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 1834. A bill to reauthorize the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act of 1992, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 1835. A bill to expand the definition of limited tax benefit for purposes of the Line Item Veto; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, that if one Committee reports, the other have thirty days to report or be discharged.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 1836. A bill to designate a segment of the Clarion River, located in Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FORD (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. EXON, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NUNN, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SIMON, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. GRAMM, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 257. Resolution to designate June 15, 1996, as "National Race for the Cure Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1827. A bill to prohibit foreign travel by outgoing political appointees and Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE LAME DUCKS CAN'T FLY ACT

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation, which I call the Lame Ducks Can't Fly Act, to prevent Federal officials who are about to leave office from traveling abroad courtesy of U.S. taxpayers.

The bill would prohibit any Member of Congress who is leaving office from traveling to another country at taxpayer expense in the last 6 months of the Member's term. This prohibition could be waived by the Speaker of the House or by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. If a waiver is granted, a detailed statement must be printed in the Congressional RECORD indicating the purposes and costs of the travel.

Similarly, the bill would prohibit any political appointee in the executive branch from traveling overseas at taxpayer expense following an election in which the President is not returned to office. The prohibition for executive branch appointees could be waived if the President determines that such travel cannot reasonably be postponed until the new President takes office, and that the travel is essential to protect or promote vital national security interests.

Mr. President, after the general election in 1992, many Americans were outraged when they saw Governmental officials traveling abroad on seemingly nonessential trips, even though they were about to lose their jobs. One delegation, for example, traveled to China and Hong Kong aboard a military jet that reportedly cost about \$12,000 per hour to fly. Another trip was planned for Moscow before it was abruptly canceled when the plans were reported in the press.

In recent months, press reports have highlighted the serious concerns of many Foreign Service officers about abuses of official travel privileges by U.S. officials from all branches of government. The problem has grown to such an extent that the American Foreign Service Association has issued a policy statement calling for 14 changes in Government official foreign travel policy. The Association's first recommendation is to prohibit travel abroad by officials within 6 months of the end of their term.

Mr. President, it can be tempting for elected or appointed officials to have one last junket before losing their jobs. But it is wrong. And it is not fair to taxpayers—many of whom have a hard time making ends meet. These costs may be small compared to the budget deficit. Yet these kinds of abuses are outrageous, and they sap the trust of Americans in their Government.

Mr. President, there are times when travel abroad by lame duck officials is necessary to protect important national interests. However, there is no excuse for wasting taxpayer dollars on nonessential travel.

I hope my colleagues will support the legislation, and ask unanimous consent that a copy of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1827

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LIMITATION OF FOREIGN TRAVEL BY CERTAIN POLITICAL APPOINTEES DURING POST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PERIOD.

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

“§5710. Limitation of travel of political appointees during certain post Presidential election periods

“(a) For purposes of this section the term—

“(1) ‘political appointee’ means any individual who serves—

“(A) in a Senior Executive Service position and is not a career appointee as defined under section 3132(a)(4);

“(B) in a position under the Executive Schedule pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 53; or

“(C) in a position of a confidential or policy-determining character under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and

“(2) ‘post Presidential election period’ means any period beginning on the date immediately following the date of the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November on which the general election of the President occurs, and ending on the January 20 following such an election.

“(b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c), travel by a political appointee may not be paid for under the provisions of this subchapter or any other provision of law, if such travel—

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

"(1) is outside of the United States; and
 "(2) occurs during a post Presidential election period after which the incumbent President shall not return for another term of office as President.

"(C)(1) The provisions of subsection (b) shall not apply to travel by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the United States Trade Representative, or political appointees who are accompanying these individuals on affected travel.

"(2) The President may waive the provisions of subsection (b) with regard to any travel if the President makes a written determination that such travel—

"(A) cannot reasonably be postponed until after the post Presidential election period; and

"(B) is essential to protect or promote vital national interests."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5709 the following:

"5710. Limitation of travel of political appointees during certain post Presidential election periods."

SEC. 2. LIMITATION OF FOREIGN TRAVEL BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING ELECTION PERIODS.

(a) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), no funds may be expended for travel by a Member of Congress if such travel—

(A) is outside of the United States; and
 (B) occurs after the date that is 180 days prior to the end of the term of service or date of retirement of the Member of Congress.

(2) DATE OF RETIREMENT.—For purposes of this subsection, the date of retirement is the date on which the Member is to retire as a Member of Congress, pursuant to a public announcement by or on behalf of the Member.

(b) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives, with respect to Members of the House of Representatives, and the President pro tempore of the Senate, with respect to Members of the Senate, may waive the prohibition on travel under this section if the travel is determined to be in the interest of the House of Representatives or the Senate, respectively, and the United States.

(2) STATEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B) and if a waiver is granted under this subsection, a statement of the waiver shall be printed in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable and shall include a detailed description of the travel involved, the purpose of travel, and an estimate of the costs of the travel.

(B) EXCEPTION.—If the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President pro tempore of the Senate determines that publication of such a statement would jeopardize national security, or otherwise compromise vital national interests, no statement is required.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section the term "Member of Congress" includes any Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.●

By Mr. PRESSLER:

S. 1829. A bill to prohibit the purchase of foreign beef by a school participating in the school lunch, school breakfast, or child care food program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that would require schools participating in the National School Lunch Program to buy American beef. The bill would extend this requirement also to the School Breakfast Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program [CACFP]. This is a simple bill. Further, given the current situation faced by American cattlemen, this bill should command bipartisan support.

Currently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] is bound by the Buy American Act, which requires USDA to purchase American beef for the commodities distribution portion of these programs. However, no similar requirement is placed on schools which purchase their own foodstuffs and then receive Federal reimbursement for the meals they serve students. Schools are encouraged to buy American, but are not bound to do so. My bill would provide consistency throughout these child nutrition programs. Simply put, if schools expect to be reimbursed, we expect schools to buy American beef.

Why should this bill be passed? Plain and simple, immediate action must be taken to help our Nation's cattle industry. Cattle prices have plummeted to their lowest level in years. High grain prices and drought also have contributed to the economic crisis facing our ranchers. The result is that South Dakota's cattlemen are facing some very tough times. Some South Dakota producers soon may be forced to leave the cattle business altogether unless markets begin to improve. Their plight is spilling over to affect other businesses in the small towns and cities where they live. We should look at all possible ways to stimulate the American beef market. A requirement that schools purchase American beef will increase demand.

This is just one advance in our battle to improve conditions for American cattlemen. As I have advocated, Congress and the administration should work actively on multiple fronts. I plan to introduce legislation that would require all beef sold to consumers be labeled, indicating in what country the beef was produced. This requirement would make it easier for schools and other consumers to buy American beef.

I recently requested that the USDA prohibit formula or basis pricing on forward contracted cattle, require that forward contracts be offered in an open, public manner and require that packer-fed cattle be sold in an open, public market. I hope they will take action on this front soon. These are all actions the Clinton administration can take without congressional action.

I also urged President Clinton to begin an investigation into cattle imports from Mexico. Many South Dakota producers have serious concerns that recent import surges may be due to Mexico transshipping cattle from

other countries into the United States, which is a blatant violation of trade agreements. Again, the President need not wait for congressional action.

Finally, and most important, the Clinton administration should begin an anti-trust action on the meatpacking industry. This is very important for our cattlemen. I have called on the administration time and again to enforce fully our anti-trust laws. I am still waiting for action.

Mr. President, with a combined effort by Congress and the President, I am confident we can once again make our cattle industry healthy and competitive. I am proud to be an active voice for South Dakota's livestock producers. This issue requires immediate attention and I hope my colleagues will join me in addressing this serious problem.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1829

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMERICAN BEEF IN CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

The National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 28. AMERICAN BEEF IN CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

"A school or service institution in the continental United States participating in the school lunch program, the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), or the child care food program under section 17 may not purchase beef or beef food-products produced outside the United States for use in carrying out the program."

By Mr. BROWN (for Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ROTH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. SANTORUM)):

S. 1830. A bill to amend the NATO Participation Act of 1994 to expedite the transition to full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization of emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

THE NATO ENLARGEMENT FACILITATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a new bill for consideration by the Senate.

In 1994, when the administration seemed reluctant to allow countries in Central Europe to join NATO, we drafted a bill titled the "NATO Participation Act of 1994." That measure set forth in U.S. statute a policy, for the first time, that would ensure NATO expansion to include those countries in Central Europe that want to be free and want to join in a mutual pact for self-defense. The bill marked a significant change of course for the United States.

The administration's reluctance to move forward with NATO expansion