

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 the 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: