

Ms. Niland, 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. 62. An act to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 126. An act to amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 186. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and in coordination with other Federal, State, and local government agencies, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term groundwater remediation program in California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 412. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area.

H.R. 486. An act to provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base.

H.R. 584. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with, or facilitate, the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior.

H.R. 680. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 694. An act to enhance the preservation and interpretation of the Gullah/Geechee cultural heritage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 816. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain parcels of National Forest System land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada.

H.R. 1134. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments.

H.R. 1160. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through June 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 384. An act to extend the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for 2 years.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University: Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Mr. REGULA of Ohio, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BECERRA of California.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 161(a) of the Trade

Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives as Congressional Advisers on Trade Policy and Negotiations: Mr. THOMAS of California, Mr. SHAW of Florida, Mr. HERGER of California, Mr. RANGEL of New York, and Mr. CARDIN of Maryland.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 62. An act to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 126. An act to amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 186. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and in coordination with other Federal, State, and local government agencies, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term groundwater remediation program in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 412. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 486. An act to provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 584. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with, or facilitate, the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 680. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 694. An act to enhance the preservation and interpretation of the Gullah/Geechee cultural heritage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 816. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain parcels of National Forest System land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1134. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-1276. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update Notice—Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004" (Notice 2005-26) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1277. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a biennial report relative to the Physician Group Practice demonstration; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1278. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tobacco Transition Assessments" (RIN0560-AH31) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1279. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oriental Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area" (APHIS Docket No. 02-096-4) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1280. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Minimal-Risk Regions and Importation of Commodities: Partial Delay of Applicability" (RIN0579-AB73) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1281. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Railroad Retirement Board under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 2004; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1282. A communication from the Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, a report entitled "21st Century Challenges: Reexamining the Base of the Federal Government"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1283. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of transactions involving exports to Chile; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1284. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Loans to Members and Lines of Credit to Members" (12 C.F.R. Part 701) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1285. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Project Planning and Review), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Chief of Engineers on Dallas Floodway Extension, Trinity River Basin, Texas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1286. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1287. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1288. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) breach; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1289. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1290. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1291. A communication from the Chairman, Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rules and Explanation and Justification on Political Party Committees Donating Funds to Certain Tax-Exempt Organizations and Political Organizations" received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1292. A communication from the Chairman, Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Filing Documents by Priority Mail, Express Mail, and Overnight Delivery Service" received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1293. A communication from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, the report of the Office's objection to the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) finding of violations of the Anti-Deficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LUGAR for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*John Thomas Schieffer, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Japan.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Nominee: John Thomas Schieffer.

Post: Ambassador to Japan.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$1,000.00, 8/2/00, Martin Frost Campaign Committee; \$2,000.00, 6/14/04, Bush-Cheney '04 Inc.

2. Spouse: Susanne S. Schieffer: \$2,000.00, 6/14/04, Bush-Cheney '04 Inc.

3. Children and Spouses: Paul Robert Schieffer: none.

4. Parents: Gladys Payne Schieffer—deceased; John E. Schieffer—deceased.

5. Grandparents: Florence Payne—deceased; Worth Payne—deceased; Janette Schieffer—deceased; Emmitt Schieffer—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Bob L. Schieffer, none; Patricia P. Schieffer, none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Sharon Mayes, none; Roger Mayes, none.

Howard J. Krongard, of New Jersey, to be Inspector General, Department of State.

*David B. Balton, of the District of Columbia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries.

*Joseph R. DeTrant, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of

service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks.

*John B. Ballinger, of Virginia, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

*R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs).

*C. David Welch, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

*Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

*Rudolph E. Boschwitz, of Minnesota, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Walter E. North and ending with Robert J. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 24, 2005.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Peter Fernandez and ending with Ross G. Kreamer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 24, 2005.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with George Ruffner and ending with William Zarit, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 8, 2005.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk 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 times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 621. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 622. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) to provide for the protection of voluntarily furnished confidential information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 623. A bill to direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BAYH:

S. 624. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to protect the financial condition of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are ordered to long-term active duty in support of a contingency operation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 625. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a \$1,000 refundable credit for individuals who are bona fide volunteer members of volunteer firefighting and emergency medical service organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 626. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self management training by designating certified diabetes educators who are recognized by a nationally recognized certifying body and who meet the same quality standards set forth for other providers of diabetes self management training, as certified providers for purposes of outpatient diabetes self-management training services under part B of the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KYL, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 627. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, to increase the rates of the alternative incremental credit, and to provide an alternative simplified credit for qualified research expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BUNNING):

S. 628. A bill to provide for increased planning and funding for health promotion programs of the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 629. A bill to amend chapter 97 of title 18, United States Code, relating to protecting against attacks on railroads and other mass transportation systems; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 630. A bill to establish procedures for the acknowledgment of Indian tribes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 631. A bill to provide grants to ensure full and fair participation in certain decisionmaking processes of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. DODD):

S.J. Res. 7. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. LEAHY):

S.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Shirley Ann Jackson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. LEAHY):

S.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Robert P. Kogod as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the