leaves the National Home stronger and in a better position than when they arrived.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in offering our congratulations and sincere appreciation to the VFW National Home for Children. We applaud and admire the valuable work of the dedicated donors, staff, and volunteers. We commend the VFW National Home for Children as they continue to improve the lives of these families.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 147. Resolution electing members to the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library.

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1268. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1268. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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–1294. A communication from the Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled '' Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Subpart C and Subpart D—2005–2006 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish Regulations'' (RIN1018–AT46) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1295. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Investment Management, Office of Regulatory Policy, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Redemption Fees for Redeemable Securities'' (RIN3235–AJ17) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1296. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the authorization to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1297. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Competitive Sourcing Official, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the Department's 2004 Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and 2004 Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1298. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the monthly report on the status of licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1299. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Alabama: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision'' (FRL No. 7884–4) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1300. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Maintenance Plan Revisions; Ohio'' (FRL No. 7886–7) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1301. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Control of Total Reduced Sulfur From Kraft Pulp Mills: Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule; and Correction'' (FRL No. 7884–7) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1302. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Oregon Visibility Protection Plan'' (FRL No. 7881–4) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1303. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Finding of Failure to Submit Section 110 State Implementation Plans; for Interstate Transport for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for 8-hour Ozone and PM2.5'' (FRL No. 7885–7) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1304. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Delegation of Authority of Texas'' (FRL No. 7886–4) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1305. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Altering the Jurat to Avoid Tax'' (Rev. Rul. 2005–18) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1306. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Frivolous Arguments Regarding Waiver of Social Security Benefits Used to Avoid Tax'' (Rev. Rul. 2005–17) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1307. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Frivolous Arguments Regarding Opposition to Government Policies and Programs Used to Avoid Tax'' (Rev. Rul. 2005–20) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1308. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Frivolous Constitutional Arguments Used to Avoid Tax'' (Rev. Rul. 2005–19) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1309. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Frivolous 'Straw Man' Claim Used to Avoid Tax'' (Rev. Rul. 2005–21) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1310. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Charitable Remainder Trusts; Application of Ordering Rule'' (RIN1545–AW35) received on March 16, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 161. A bill to provide for a land exchange in the State of Arizona between the Secretary of Agriculture and Yavapai Ranch Limited Partnership (Rept. No. 109–40).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Patricia Lynn Scarlett, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

*Jeffrey Clay Sell, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominees'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 times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 632. A bill to authorize the extension of unconditional and permanent nondiscriminatory treatment (permanent normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 633. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS:

S. 634. A bill to amend the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 to clarify allowable payment terms for sales of agricultural commodities and products to Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 635. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 636. A bill to direct the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to submit semi-annual reports regarding settlements relating to false claims and fraud against the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 637. A bill to establish a national health program administered by the Office of Personnel Management to offer health benefits plans to individuals who are not Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 638. A bill to extend the authorization for the ferry boat discretionary program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REID, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska , and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 639. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for nonregular service from 60 years of age to 55 years of age; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 640. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a unified combatant command for military intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 641. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TALENT, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. SESSIONS , Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SMITH, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 642. A bill to support certain national youth organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 643. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State mediation programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. DODD):

S. 644. A bill to establish new special immigrant categories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DODD, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 645. A bill to reinstate the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 10. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per centum of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S.J. Res. 11. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States; 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. SANTORUM (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. Res. 83. A resolution commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the Black Press of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 185

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for the reduction of certain Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation and to modify the effective date for paid-up coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to reaffirm the authority of States to regulate certain hunting and fishing activities.

S. 378

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to make it a criminal act to willfully use a weapon with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury to any person while on board a passenger vessel, and for other purposes.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 397, a bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

S. 468

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 468, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to enhance literacy in finance and economics, and for other purposes.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to impose sanctions against perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 513

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor