

H. Con. Res. 92. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the two Houses.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations, with amendments:

H.R. 2002. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-126).

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services, with an amendment:

S. 922. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-127).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 227. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide an exclusive right to perform sound recordings publicly by means of digital transmissions and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-128).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Evan J. Wallach, of Nevada, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Terence T. Evans, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

James M. Moody, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Michael R. Murphy, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Donald C. Pogue, of Connecticut, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Ortrie D. Smith, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

William K. Sessions III, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

The following named officer to be placed on the retired list in the grade indicated under the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1370:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. John P. Otjen, 000-00-0000, United States Army.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1370:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. James R. Clapper, Jr., 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

(The above nominations 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 time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1121. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the control of outdoor advertising in areas adjacent to the Interstate System, the National Highway System, and certain other federally assisted highways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 1122. A bill to amend the provisions of titles 17 and 18, United States Code, to provide greater copyright protection by amending criminal copyright infringement provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1123. A bill to limit access by minors to cigarettes through prohibiting the sale of tobacco products in vending machines and the distribution of free samples of tobacco products in Federal buildings and property accessible by minors; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SIMON:

S. Con. Res. 23. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in affirmation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, commonly known as the Motor Voter Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1121. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the control of outdoor advertising in areas adjacent to the Interstate System, the National Highway System, and certain other federally assisted highways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

BILLBOARD CONTROL LEGISLATION

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill that will strengthen the Federal law that regulates billboards on our Nation's highways and scenic byways. My bill will close the loophole in the 1965 Highway Beautification Act that permits billboards in unzoned areas, a fact that clearly violates the spirit of the 1965 act.

I have been a strong supporter of strict billboard controls even since I represented Rutland County as a Vermont State senator. During my tenure as a State senator, I served as vice chair of the special committee that wrote Vermont's law banning billboards from our Federal highways and rural routes, and as state attorney gen-

eral, I successfully defended the law in the Federal courts.

New billboards are being constructed along the U.S. Federal aid interstate and primary highways at record rates. In fact, based on estimates by the Congressional Research Service, one billboard is erected every 30 minutes all year long—a total of 15,000 to 16,000 annually—along Federal aid highways.

Currently, the Highway Beautification Act allows new billboards to be constructed in zoned and unzoned commercial and industrial areas. In theory, this limits billboards to areas with substantial bona fide commercial or industrial activity. In practice, however, this means that wherever there is any industrial or commercial use—for example, a single gas station—several billboards may be erected. Many of these signs have messages that are not even related to the adjacent business.

Mr. President, by bill will close this legal loophole by only allowing billboards to be constructed in those areas that are zoned for commercial or industrial use.

Mr. President, my bill will also require that the Federal Highway Administration keep track of the number of billboards on our Nation's highways. In 1991, the Congressional Research Service estimated that there were between 425,000 and 450,000 billboards in existence on Federal aid roads, but admitted that no one really knew how many billboards were along these roads.

Right now States are only required to report to the Federal Government the number of illegal and nonconforming billboards on their roads. Decent public policy cannot be made in the absence of information. My bill will require that States and the Federal Highway Administration track the number of conforming billboards along Federal aid highways and scenic byways.

Finally, Mr. President, my bill will prohibit the removal of trees and other types of vegetation for the sole purpose of improving billboard visibility. The idea that publically owned trees, many planted with public beautification funds, should be destroyed to enrich billboard owners is ludicrous. What is worse is that many of these billboards are nonconforming and are required by law to be removed anyway.

Mr. President, my bill will move the 1965 Highway Beautification Act closer to its original intent of preserving the public's investment in our highways by protecting scenic areas and natural resources and giving Congress the information it needs to make well-informed public policy. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of this legislation.●

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 1122. A bill to amend the provisions of titles 17 and 18, United States Code, to provide greater copyright protection by amending criminal copyright infringement provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.