EC–3471. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the rule entitled ''Action on Decision in Simon v. Commissioner,'' received on July 15, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3472. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the rule entitled ''Action on Decision in Tele-Communications, Inc. v. Commissioner,'' received on July 15, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3473. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the rule entitled ''Action on Decision in Estate of Clack v. Commissioner,'' received on July 15, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3474. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the rule entitled ''Action on Decision in Lauckner v. United States,'' received on July 15, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3475. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the rule entitled ''Action on Decision in Murphy v. Commissioner,'' received on July 15, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3476. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the rule entitled ''Action on Decision in Fisher v. Commissioner,'' received on July 15, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3477. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding the rule entitled ''Revenue Ruling 96–36,'' received on July 3, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3478. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Branch, Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rules of Origin for Textile and Apparel Products,'' received on July 17, 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

H.R. 3754. A bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104–323).

By Mr. PRESSLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

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 (Rept. No. 104–324).

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

H.R. 3675. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104–325).

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 969. A bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for a mother and child following the birth of the child, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104–326).

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. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1975. A bill to amend the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to provide increased emphasis on competitive grants to promote agricultural research projects regarding precision agriculture and to provide for the dissemination of the results of the research projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 1976. A bill to authorize the President to enter into a trade agreement concerning Northern Ireland and certain Border Counties of the Republic of Ireland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 1977. A bill to designate a United States courthouse located in Tampa, Florida, as the ''Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1975. A bill to amend the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to provide increased emphasis on competitive grants to promote agricultural research projects regarding precision agriculture and to provide for the dissemination of the results of the research projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE PRECISION AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACT OF 1996

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today several colleagues and I are introducing the Precision Agriculture Research, Education, and Information Dissemination Act of 1996.

This legislation emphasizes research on precision agriculture technologies. These technologies are very existing and will enable the United States to maintain and augment our competitive edge in global agricultural markets. The legislation amends the Competitive, Special and Facilities Research Grant Act of 1965 by modifying the National Research Initiative [NRI] to give the Secretary of Agriculture authority to provide research, extension, and education competitive grants and programs that emphasize precision agriculture technologies and management practices.

This legislation represents a compromise between various interests. The bill is supported by the Fertilizer Institute, National Center for Resources Innovations, Experiment Station and Extension Service Directors, Lockheed Martin, and a consortium of other high tech companies.

An identical bill H.R. 3795 was introduced by Congressman LEWIS and Congressman CRAPO on July 11, 1996.

Precision agriculture technologies are rapidly advancing, and it is crucial that the agricultural community invest in this field of research so that all farmers will be able to benefit. This bill will not only increase the investment in precision agriculture, but it will also emphasize an educational process that will assist all farmers in adopting precision agriculture technologies and applications.

Emerging technologies in production agriculture are changing and improving the way farmers produce food and fiber in this country. New technologies such as global positioning satellites field mapping, georeference information systems, grid soil sampling, variable rate seeding and input applications, portable electronic pest scouting, on-the-go yield monitoring, and computerized field history and record keeping are just a few of the next generation technological tools in use today.

These technologies allow the agriculture producer to adjust hundreds of variables in the farm field, form soil pH to nutrient levels to crop yield, on a 2 foot by 2 foot grid that were previously far too costly to calculate for each field. Today, these technologies can map these variables and data instantaneously as an applicator or combine drives across the field. In short, each farm field using precision technology becomes a research pilot. And in the down months or winter season a farmer can collect the data from the previous growing season and adjust dozens of important agronomic variables to maximize the efficient use of all the farmers inputs: time, fuel, commercial inputs, seed rate, irrigation—the list goes on and on.

These precision farming tools are already proving to help farmers increase field productivity, improve input efficiency, protect the environment, maximize farm profitability and create computerized field histories that may help increase land values. Collectively, these and other emerging technologies are being used in a holistic, site-specific systems approach called precision agriculture. Progressive and production minded farmers are already using these technologies. In a decade, they may be as commonplace on the farm as air-conditioned tractor cabs and power steering.

Precision farming seems to offer great promise for improving production performance. Inherently, it just sounds very appealing to be able to evaluate production conditions on an individual square foot, yard, or acre basis rather than that of a whole field. It would seem that we should be able to treat any situation more appropriately the