

S. 613. A bill to provide that Kennedy may not tax compensation paid to a resident of Tennessee for certain services performed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BREAUX (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 614. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide flexibility in the use of unused volume cap for tax-exempt bonds, to provide a \$20,000,000 limit on small issue bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 615. A bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide for continued eligibility for supplemental security income and food stamps with regard to certain classifications of aliens; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 616. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to improve the designation of metropolitan planning organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 617. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that imported meat, and meat food products containing imported meat, bear a label identifying the country of origin; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SARBANES:

S. 618. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to assist in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S. 619. A bill to establish a Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. ROTH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. BOND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KYL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. MACK, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 620. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide greater equity in savings opportunities for families with children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 601. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking a child hostage in order to evade arrest; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 602. A bill to provide a mandatory minimum sentence for State crimes involving the use of a firearm, impose work requirements for prisoners, and prohibit the provision of luxury items to prisoners; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CRIME LEGISLATION

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce two bills intended to protect innocent Americans from the violent will of criminals and fugitives. One need take only a quick review of recent statistics to realize the chilling scope of our nation's crime problems. For instance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that 11 million Americans were the victims of violent crime in 1994 alone. The Bureau of Justice Statistics also reports that approximately 3.5 million Americans were accosted at gunpoint during that same year. These statistics should galvanize us all into taking concrete steps to protect innocent Americans against senseless victimization and turn the tide against criminals once and for all. My bills will help to do just that.

The first bill I introduce today, the Crime Control Act of 1997, will ensure that an individual convicted of committing a violent crime or engaging in drug trafficking activities while in possession of a gun, will go to jail for 10 years, and not a day less. If an offender fires a gun while committing those crimes, that offender will go to jail for 20 years. And should that criminal make the mistake of using a machine-gun or a gun with a silencer to commit those crimes, that criminal will be incarcerated for 30 years. Once imprisoned, the Crime Control Act provides hardened criminals with no option for parole or reduced sentences that would allow them another chance to harm innocent citizens.

Simply put, the passage of my Crime Control Act ensures that if you do the crime, you will most certainly do the time. And under my bill, that time won't be easy. A key initiative of the Crime Control Act is the creation of work programs for all able bodied prisoners by the Attorney General. In addition, my bill prohibits the government from providing any entertainment devices, like televisions, radios, or stereos, for use in individual prisoner cells. Federal prisons are not the place for entertainment. They are not intended to be fun. They are the places where individuals repay their debt to society and in the case of violent criminals, it is a very large debt indeed. My Crime Control Act makes sure that violent criminals pay that debt, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important and effective crime control measure.

The second bill I introduce today applies directly to actions taken by fugitives who resist arrest. Over the past few years, America has witnessed an unfortunate trend involving standoffs between the U.S. Government and parties who reject its authority to enforce the laws of this land—specifically, the incidents in Waco, TX; Ruby Ridge, ID; and Garfield County, MT. Thankfully, the episode involving the Freeman did not escalate to violence or bloodshed. Regrettably, this does not hold true for Waco or Ruby Ridge, where there was a tragic loss of life to civilians and Government agents alike.

Each of these situations jeopardized children's lives—innocent children who had no choice in the role they played in these standoffs. In Waco, 25 young children under the age of 15 died in the blaze that spread throughout the compound. These deaths occurred despite the repeated efforts by Federal agents to encourage Branch Davidians leaders to allow children to leave the compound.

At Ruby Ridge, a 14-year-old died after being caught in gunfire. And during the Freeman standoff, Americans across the Nation held their breath—praying that violence would not erupt. Once again, the lives of children were placed in jeopardy. But thankfully, this time, the children—and adults—emerged unharmed.

As we have seen, tragedy can occur in these very tense situations. Above all else, we need to ensure that children are kept out of these situations in the future. People who arm themselves after failing to comply with warrants or because they seek to avoid arrest must realize that, whether or not it is intended, children are implicated in these standoffs. We cannot allow this to continue any longer. We cannot allow another child's life to be endangered in this manner.

This bill seeks to protect children from harm in these standoff situations. My bill would make it a crime to detain a child when two conditions are met: if a person is trying to evade arrest or avoid complying with a warrant, and that person uses force, or threatens to use force, against a Federal agent. Any person convicted of violating this act would be imprisoned for 10-25 years. If a child is injured, the penalty would be increased to 20-35 years. If a child is killed, the penalty would be life imprisonment.

No law can ever assure that children will be kept free from harm. But this legislation will help assure that children do not become inadvertent, innocent pawns when violent situations arise. It will provide a deterrent to involving a child in any standoff—and severe penalties for those who ignore the law.

Both of the bills I introduce today are aimed at protecting the innocents in our society, and I urge my colleagues to support them. America needs to be a place where innocent citizens do not have to fear for their life

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HELMS:

S. Res. 75. An executive resolution to advise and consent to the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, subject to certain conditions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. Con. Res. 22. A concurrent resolution to provide that the statue of Roger Williams be returned to the United States Capitol Rotunda at the conclusion of the temporary display of the Portrait Monument of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.