

forward to learning more about this troublesome issue in the coming months.

For the time being, however, I wish to ask my colleagues for quick support and passage of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. I am honored to be a co-sponsor of the bill, and look forward to finding more ways to protect and conserve endangered species, both in the United States and abroad.●

#### APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 105-56, and on behalf of the majority leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals as members of the Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power: Samuel A. Adcock, of Virginia, and Merrill A. McPeak, of Oregon.

#### JOINT REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Donald J. Barry, of Wisconsin, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on November 7, 1997, be referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works.

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

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREE- MENT—House Joint Resolution 101

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives House Joint Resolution 101 making continuing appropriations through Sunday, the joint resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without further action or debate.

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

#### REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SE- CRETACY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 105-32

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on November 7, 1997, by the President of the United States: South Pacific Regional Environment Programme Agreement (Treaty Document No. 105-32). I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, done at Apia on June 16, 1993 ("the Agreement"). The report of the Department of State with respect to the Agreement is attached for the information of the Senate.

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has existed for almost 15 years to promote cooperation in the South Pacific region, to protect and improve the South Pacific environment and to ensure sustainable development in that region. Prior to the Agreement, SPREP had the status of an informal institution housed within the South Pacific Commission. When this institutional arrangement began to prove inefficient, the United States and the nations of the region negotiated the Agreement to allow SPREP to become an intergovernmental organization in its own right and enhance its ability to promote cooperation among its members.

The Agreement was concluded in June 1993 and entered into force in August 1995. Nearly every nation—except the United States—that has participated in SPREP and in the negotiation of the Agreement is now party to the Agreement. As a result, SPREP now enjoys a formal institutional status that allows it to deal more effectively with the pressing environmental concerns of the region. The United States and its territories can only participate in its activities as official observers.

The Agreement improves the ability of SPREP to serve the interests of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. Its ratification is supported by our territories and will demonstrate continued United States commitment to, and concern for, the South Pacific region.

Under its terms, the Agreement entered into force on August 31, 1995. To date, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Western Samoa have become parties to the Agreement.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Agreement and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 7, 1997.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1414

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1414, which was introduced earlier today by Senator MCCAIN, is at the desk. I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:  
A bill (S. 1414) to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are

manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request on behalf of the other side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### AMENDING TITLE I OF THE EM- PLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Labor Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1377, and further that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1377) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to encourage retirement income savings.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1612

(Purpose: To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to promote retirement income savings through the establishment of an outreach program in the Department of Labor and periodic National Summits on Retirement Savings)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator GRASSLEY has a substitute amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], FOR MR. GRASSLEY, proposes an amendment numbered 1612.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's Record under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, almost 7 months ago, my colleague and I, Senator JOHN BREAU, introduced S. 757, legislation identical to H.R. 1377. This legislation—the Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act or SAVER is now ready for passage in the Senate and ultimately signature of the President. While it took a little longer than I had hoped—it is still a timely and vital piece of legislation.

When I introduced the bill back in May, I cited some statistics on the dismal level of savings by individuals in this country. I said that only about one-third of American workers had calculated how much they will need to save by retirement in order to maintain their standard of living. I said that workers in the 40's to the early 50's had seen their savings levels drop by 6 percent from 1988 to 1994.