

COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1601, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer technology for purposes of human cloning.

S. 1605

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to establish a matching grant program to help States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 65

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 65, A concurrent resolution calling for a United States effort to end restriction on the freedoms and human rights of the enclaved people in the occupied area of Cyprus.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 71

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, A concurrent resolution condemning Iraq's threat to international peace and security.

At the request of Mr. GORTON, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, *supra*.

SENATE RESOLUTION 148

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. KEMPTHORNE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 148, A resolution designating 1998 as the "Onate Cuatrocenenario," the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

SENATE RESOLUTION 155

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BUMPERS) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 155, A resolution designating April 6 of each year as "National Tartan Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 170

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 170, A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in biomedical research should be increased by \$2,000,000,000 in fiscal year 1999.

SENATE RESOLUTION 171

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH), the

Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 171, A resolution designating March 25, 1998, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 73—RELATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. CON. RES. 73

Whereas on a level playing field, United States producers are the most competitive suppliers of agricultural products in the world;

Whereas increased United States agricultural exports are critical to the future of the farm, rural, and overall economy of the United States;

Whereas the opportunities for increased agricultural exports are undermined by the unfair subsidies provided by trading partners of the United States, and by various tariff and nontariff trade barriers imposed on highly-competitive United States agricultural products;

Whereas United States agricultural exports reached a record-level \$60,000,000,000 in 1996 compared to a total United States merchandise trade deficit of \$170,000,000,000;

Whereas the United States is currently engaged in a number of outstanding trade disputes with the European Union regarding agriculture matters and the disputes involve the most intractable issues between the United States and the European Union;

Whereas the outstanding trade disputes include the failure to finalize a veterinary equivalency program, which jeopardizes an estimated \$3,000,000,000 in trade in livestock products between the United States and the European Union;

Whereas the World Trade Organization has ruled that the European Union must allow the importation of beef with growth hormones produced in the United States;

Whereas the European Union has yet to fulfill its commitment under the Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures reached as part of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

Whereas the European Union has promulgated regulations regarding the use of "specified risk materials" for livestock products which have a disputed scientific basis and which serve to impede the importation of United States livestock products despite the fact that no cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) have been documented in the United States;

Whereas the European Union has hindered trade in products grown with the benefit of biogenetics based on claims that also have a disputed scientific basis;

Whereas these barriers to biogenetic trade could have a profound negative impact on agricultural trade in the long run; and

Whereas there are also continuing disputes regarding European Union subsidies for dairy, wheat gluten, and canned fruits: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) the European Union unfairly restricts the importation of United States agricultural products;

(2) the restrictions imposed on United States agricultural exports to the European Union are the most vexing problems facing United States exporters in Europe;

(3) the elimination of restrictions imposed on United States agricultural exports should be a top priority of any current or future trade negotiations between the United States and the European Union; and

(4) the United States Trade Representative should not engage in any trade negotiations with the European Union to achieve sectoral liberalization unless an initiative to achieve the elimination of unfair restrictions on United States agricultural products is advanced on the same time frame as the sectoral negotiations.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, many of the lessons that we have learned regarding agricultural trade strategy, to change the subject to one that we have been not necessary been talking recently, have taken a lot of time for us to learn. I used to work in this field, the trade field. I worked for the Secretary of Agriculture, and I have been around some of these negotiations.

It took the United States forty years of multilateral negotiations, but in the Uruguay Round, we finally got it right: in order to achieve meaningful agricultural market liberalization, we must link progress in agricultural liberalization to progress in other sectors critical to our trading partners.

Throughout the world, agriculture is one of the most highly protected industries. It is also represents one of the strongest comparative advantages that the United States enjoys. Additionally, the U.S. agriculture industry is a critical building block of this economy, employing 22.7 million people. That is about 17 percent of the total domestic labor force. Agriculture also contributed \$997.7 billion dollars to our economy in 1996. In other words, 13.1 percent of our country's GDP is agriculture-based. Furthermore, a large portion of what we produce in the U.S.—roughly 40 percent—is consumed overseas.

Because agriculture is so critical to the U.S. economy and so reliant on exports, I find it exceedingly troubling, along with Senator GRASSLEY, to hear the recent news reports that the office of the United States Trade Representative plans to pursue a trans-Atlantic trade pact that would not address agricultural issues. The barriers to U.S. agricultural exports represent some of the most significant market access problems that the United States currently faces in Europe. Furthermore, the U.S. is currently engaged in a number of outstanding trade disputes with the EU regarding agricultural matters, and these are among the most intractable issues between our two continents. It is incomprehensible to me that the U.S. would consider entering negotiations that would overlook these crucial issues.

Today I am joining with Senator GRASSLEY in submitting a Senate Concurrent Resolution, which expresses

the sense of the Congress that the EU is unfairly restricting the importation of United States agriculture products and that the elimination of such restrictions should be a top priority in trade negotiations with the European Union.

Mr. President, quite simply, it would be foolhardy for the United States to proceed with negotiations that avoid some of the issues that it has been seeking most desperately to advance. Without the leverage that is gained by simultaneously negotiating access in areas where the U.S. seeks greater access with the areas in which the EU would like greater access, the U.S. is positioning itself to hand over the keys to the bank. While leaving out the touchy issues in agriculture may allow the U.S. to quickly conclude an agreement, it is a strategy that would undermine the long-run economic interests of this country.

I hope my colleagues will join with me in sending a message to this Administration that the agriculture industry is not willing to be sold out for the sake of an chance to culminate a quick trade deal. We will not support any new trade negotiations unless agriculture issues are advanced on the same time frame as issues involving other sectors of the economy.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m. in open session, to receive testimony on the defense authorization request for fiscal year 1999 and the future years defense plan.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet at on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. on indecency on the Internet.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a business meeting to consider the nominations of Donald J. Barry, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of Interior, and Sallyanne Harper, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Tuesday, February 10, immediately following the 11 a.m. cloture vote, the President's Room, S-216, the Capitol.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Finance be permitted to meet Tuesday, February 10, 1998, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SH-215, to conduct a markup.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on "The Tobacco Settlement."

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

##### COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on Tobacco Settlement IV during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m.

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

##### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be permitted to meet on February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Financial Services and Technology of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, to conduct a hearing into the FDIC's year 2000 preparedness.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 9:30 a.m., in SD-342, to hold a hearing on Fraud on the Internet: Scams Affecting Consumers."

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 2:30 p.m. on computer security.

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### ISRAELI AID

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I welcome the initiative on the part of Mr. Netanyahu and the Israeli government to significantly reduce the amount of aid we annually send to Israel. Our countries have a long-standing relationship which has been witness to the maturing of a fledgling democracy in an area intolerant of its presence. In a very real sense, we have supported Israel's right to exist as a nation and we have supported its economic development.

I note that Mr. Netanyahu's plan which calls for the complete elimination of \$1.2 Billion in economic aid, is testament to the successful implementation of our past years' investment. The funds we provided have not been squandered. The Israeli economy is strong and growing. Mr. Netanyahu is doing the right thing at the right time. We do not need to continue the current level of these funds into the future. However, Mr. President, we must also take care not to undermine the economic stability of this democracy and we must continue to insure its military strength. For those reasons, I support a gradual phasing out of the \$1.2 Billion of economic aid and the gradual increase to its military aid by \$600 Million. Israel has been and remains a strategic ally, both in the region and as an important partner in developing technologically advanced civilian and defense systems. We must do all in our power to not just merely maintain that relationship, but strengthen it. I firmly believe that a strong Israel is the cornerstone for a stable and peaceful Middle East region.

The cost of defending itself has been a tremendous burden on the Israeli economy. The threats to its borders and its people are very real. The Israelis have looked to the United States not only for funding assistance but for the hardware with which to defend itself. I note with pride that the new centerpiece of the Israeli Air Force is none other than the Boeing McDonnell Douglas F-15 I, known as the Stirke Eagle here, and as the Thunder, in Israel. This is the most advanced operational tactical aircraft in the world today. It will increase Israel's security and in turn promote regional stability. This is very much in our interest.

Mr. Netanyahu's proposal will solidify our military partnership and bring an end to Israel's status as an economic dependent. Mr. President, as Israel strengthens its economic house, we must remain committed to preserving that house so that it might remain as a democratic beacon in the region. A strong Israel is good for America. •