

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4654. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 07-98" received on April 20, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4655. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices" received on April 21, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4656. A communication from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Indicators of Equal Employment Opportunity-Status and Trends"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4657. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the activities of U.S. Government departments and agencies relating to the prevention of nuclear proliferation for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4658. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4659. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to economic and political transformations of countries of Central and Eastern Europe after the collapse of the communist system for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4660. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on April 15, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4661. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Ruling 98:23 received on April 21, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4662. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Notice 98:23 received on April 15, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4663. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Medicaid Quality of Care Medical Records Study"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4664. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program" (RIN0938-AI60) received on April 15, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4665. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1998"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4666. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the maintenance medication dispensing policy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4667. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to the report on Reserve retirement initiatives; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4668. A communication from the Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Defense Logistics Agency; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4669. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Third Party Collection Program for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4670. A communication from the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Department of Defense contracts and subcontracts; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4671. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a special impoundment message for fiscal year 1998; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Finance, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 1360. A bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to clarify and improve the requirements for the development of an automated entry-exit control system, to enhance land border control and enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1504. A bill to adjust the immigration status of certain Haitian nationals who were provided refuge in the United States.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

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

Wilma A. Lewis, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

James K. Robinson, Michigan, to be an Assistant Attorney General resigned.

(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. COCHRAN:

S. 1971. A bill to amend the American Folklife Preservation Act to permanently

authorize the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

S. 1972. A bill to reform the laws relating to Postal Service finances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BUMPERS (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 1973. A bill to amend section 2511 of title 18, United States Code, to revise the consent exception to the prohibition on the interception of oral, wire, or electronic communications; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1974. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any Alaska Permanent Fund dividend received by a child under age 14; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 1975. A bill to broaden eligibility for emergency loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 1976. A bill to increase public awareness of the plight of victims of crime with developmental disabilities, to collect data to measure the magnitude of the problem, and to develop strategies to address the safety and justice needs of victims of crime with developmental disabilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1977. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study and issue a report on predatory and discriminatory practices of airlines which restrict consumer access to unbiased air transportation passenger service and fare information; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1978. A bill to designate the auditorium located within the Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Steve Schiff Auditorium"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. FAIRCLOTH):

S. 1979. A bill to ensure the transparency of International Monetary Fund operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 1980. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain coins to be acquired by individual retirement accounts and other individually directed pension plan accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. MACK, Mr. FRIST, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BOND, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. HELMS):

S. 1981. A bill to preserve the balance of rights between employers, employees, and labor organizations which is fundamental to our system of collective bargaining while preserving the rights of workers to organize, or otherwise engage in concerted activities protected under the National Labor Relations Act; read the first time.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. GREGG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. HELMS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ROBB,

Mr. THURMOND, Mr. FORD, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DODD, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. J. Res. 45. A joint resolution designating March 1, 1999 as "United States Navy Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. Res. 215. A resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to request the House of Representatives to return the official papers on S. 414, and make a technical correction in the Act as passed by the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MACK, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. REED, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. Con. Res. 90. A concurrent resolution to acknowledge the Historic Northern Ireland Peace Agreement; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 1971. A bill to amend the American Folklife Preservation Act to permanently authorize the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER CREATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, a little more than 20 years ago, Congress enacted legislation which created the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The legislation enjoyed broad bipartisan and bicameral support. The legislation I am introducing today will provide permanent authorization for the Center so that the Center may continue its work to preserve and share the collections of traditions which exemplify the diverse heritage of millions of ordinary Americans.

The collections of the American Folklife Center contain rich and varied materials from my state of Mississippi and every state in the Nation. These materials document the diversity of the folk traditions of the many people who make up our nation. The Folklife Center serves as a national repository of traditional culture and is used by scholars from around the world as well as schoolchildren, teachers, and genealogists.

The Congress has charged the American Folklife Center to preserve and present American Folklife for future generations. Providing the Center with permanent authorization will give the Center the security it needs to carry on its good work, continue its educational services, and strengthen its world-class collections. Permanent authorization will also allow the Center to engage

the public's support of its collections through long-range planning and fundraising.

American folklife is the traditional expressive culture shared within the many familial, ethnic, occupational, religious, and regional groups in the United States. It is the very basis of family and community life. I hope we can permanently authorize the Folklife Center so that these wonderful collections will be available to future generations.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 1972. A bill to reform the laws relating to Postal Service Finances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE POSTAL FINANCING REFORM ACT OF 1998

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, today I am re-introducing a bill that I originally introduced last fall—the Postal Financing Reform Act of 1998. This bill is designed to do three things: allow the Postal Service to deposit funds in private sector institutions, invest in open markets—with Treasury approval of investment choices, and allow the Postal Service to borrow from private credit markets.

For almost two decades now, the Postal Service has been self-supporting. With a yearly budget near \$60 billion, and just \$100 million appropriated to provide free mailing for the blind, free overseas voting, and reduced postage rates for certain nonprofit mailers, continuing U.S. Treasury control over Postal Service banking, investing, and borrowing is no longer necessary or justified. Nonetheless, when I first introduced the Postal Financing Reform Act last fall, specific concerns were raised by some in the postal community, and I agreed to make changes that were suggested. The Postal Financing Reform Act of 1998 incorporates these changes. Specifically, the revised 1998 Act reverts back to existing law bill language that would have potentially allowed the Postal Service to invest in its private sector competitors, and to benefit from an increased borrowing ceiling at the U.S. Treasury.

Current law prevents the Postal Service from obtaining the most favorable combination of prices and services and results in added operating costs. Under this new approach, the Treasury Department would retain much of its current oversight, but it would no longer be the sole provider of certain financial services to the Postal Service.

The Postal Financing Reform Act of 1998 proposes four significant changes to current law. First, section two of the bill amends Title 39 of the U.S. Code to authorize the Postal Service to deposit its revenues in the Postal Service Fund within the U.S. Treasury or any Federal Reserve banks or depositories for public funds. The requirement to obtain the Secretary of the Treasury's approval before any funds be deposited elsewhere would be eliminated, just as this approval is no longer

necessary for other quasi-public agencies like the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

Section three continues the provision of existing law which requires that the Secretary of the Treasury approve any investments the Postal Service may make in non-Government securities. At the same time, it would permit the Postal Service to invest in U.S. Government obligations on its own accord, without unnecessary constraints, thus enabling the Postal Service to take advantage of favorable conditions in the Government securities market.

Section four removes the control of the Secretary of the Treasury over the Postal Service's financial borrowing decisions. The Postal Service would still be required to consult with the Secretary regarding the terms and conditions of the sale of any obligations issued by the Postal Service under section 2006(a) of Title 39, and the Secretary would still exercise a power of approval over the timing of a sale of obligations.

Finally, section five of the bill removes the ability of the Postal Service to require the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase Postal Service obligations. It merely permits the Secretary of the Treasury to buy Postal Service obligations upon the Postal Service's request.

I have heard from many sources that reforms in the Postal Service should be made. Though I have decided to refrain from undertaking comprehensive reform, I have selected instead a simple, straightforward correction of an out of date practice that would reduce costs and help hold down future rate increases, without increasing risk to the taxpayers.

Those who believe the Postal Service should operate as efficiently as possible, thus reducing fees charged to consumers, should support this bill. So, too, should those who profess to see the Postal Service treated more like a business.

I think it is time to act on this issue. I invite Senators to consider this proposal for reform and support this effort to ensure a more efficient and financially sound U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that additional material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS—POSTAL FINANCING REFORM ACT OF 1998

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

The short title of this Act is the Postal Financing Reform Act of 1998.

SECTION 2. END OF TREASURY CONTROL OF POSTAL SERVICE BANKING

This provision would amend 39 U.S.C. 2003(d) by enabling the Postal Service to have sole discretion to deposit its revenues in the Postal Service Fund within the U.S. Treasury or any Federal Reserve banks or depositories for public funds. This amendment enables the Postal Service to deposit its funds as it deems appropriate, and take advantage of banking and other modern financial services in the open market that are unavailable from the Treasury Department.