

H.R. 8. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to deny entry into the United States of certain foreign motor vehicles that do not comply with State laws governing motor vehicle emissions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3249. An act to provide for the rectification of certain retirement coverage errors affecting Federal employees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3874. An act to amend the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1996 to provide children with increased access to food and nutrition assistance, to simplify program operations and improve program management, to extend certain authorities contained in those acts through fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4058. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the aviation insurance program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 208. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding access to affordable housing and expansion of homeownership opportunities.

H. Con. Res. 298. Concurrent resolution expressing deepest condolences to the State and people of Florida for the losses as a result of the wild land fires occurring in June and July 1998, expressing support to the State and people of Florida as they overcome the effects of the fires, and commending the heroic efforts of firefighters from across the Nation in battling the fires.

H. Con. Res. 301. Affirming the United States commitment to Taiwan.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2316. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1853) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House for the consideration of the House bill and Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOODLING, and Mr. MCKEON, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Mr. KILDEE.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 318. An act to require automatic cancellation and notice of cancellation rights with respect to private mortgage insurance which is required as a condition for entering into residential mortgage transaction, to abolish the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, and for other purpose.

S. 2316. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan to en-

sure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride.

H.R. 1439. An act to facilitate the sale of certain land in Tahoe National Forest in the State of Colorado to Placer County, California.

H.R. 1460. An act to allow for the election of the Delegate from Guam by other than separate ballot, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1779. An act to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing certain improvements.

H.R. 2165. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 3862 in the State of Iowa, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2217. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 9248 in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2676. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restructure and reform the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 28841. An act to extend the time required for the construction of a hydroelectric project.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 8. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to deny entry into the United States of certain foreign motor vehicles that do not comply with State laws governing motor vehicle emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3249. An act to provide for the rectification of certain retirement coverage errors affecting Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4058. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the aviation insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following concurrent resolutions were read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 208. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding access to affordable housing and expansion of homeownership opportunities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H. Con. Res. 298. Concurrent resolution expressing deepest condolences to the State and people of Florida for the losses as a result of the wild land fires occurring in June and July 1998, expressing support to the State and people of Florida as they overcome the effects of the fires, and commending the heroic efforts of firefighters from across the Nation in battling the fires; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H. Con. Res. 301. Affirming the United States commitment to Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Pursuant to the order of July 21, 1998, the following bill was referred to the Committee on Finance for a period not to extend beyond July 30, 1998:

S. 442. A bill to establish a national policy against State and local government interference with interstate commerce on the Internet or interactive computer services, and to exercise Congressional jurisdiction over interstate commerce by establishing a moratorium on the imposition of exactions that would interfere with the free flow of commerce via the Internet, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3874. An act to amend the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide children with increased access to food and nutrition assistance, to simplify program operations and improve program management, to extend certain authorities contained in those Acts through fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1432. An act to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on July 21, 1998, he presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 318. An act to require automatic cancellation and notice of cancellation rights with respect to private mortgage insurance which is required as a condition for entering into a residential mortgage transaction, to abolish the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, and for other purposes.

S. 2316. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

Report to accompany the bill (S. 1301) to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide for consumer bankruptcy protection, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-253).

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2333: An original bill making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-254).

By Mr. MCCONNELL, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2334: An original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-255).

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

S. 2206: A bill to amend the Head Start Act, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance

Act of 1981, and the Community Services Block Grant Act to reauthorize and make improvements to those Acts, to establish demonstration projects that provide an opportunity for persons with limited means to accumulate assets, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-256).

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

H.R. 1836: A bill to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to improve administration of sanctions against unfit health care providers under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-257).

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. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 2332. A bill to limit the ability of prisoners to challenge prison conditions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 2333. An original bill making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 2334. An original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 2335. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve efforts to combat medicare fraud, waste, and abuse; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 2336. A bill to amend chapter 5 of title 28, United States Code, to transfer Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, from the Eastern Judicial District of Pennsylvania to the Middle Judicial District of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GORTON, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. MACK):

S. 2337. A bill to establish a system of registries of temporary agricultural workers to provide for a sufficient supply of such workers and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to streamline procedures for the admission and extension of stay of non-immigrant agricultural workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 2338. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for equitable duty treatment for certain wool used in making suits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2339. A bill to provide for pension reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 2332. A bill to limit the ability of prisoners to challenge prison conditions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CRIME DOESN'T PAY PRISON ACT

• Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Crime Doesn't Pay Prison Act, a bill to curb the flood of frivolous prisoner lawsuits over prison conditions.

The primary purpose of this act is to articulate an objective national standard for measuring the minimum decency of prison conditions. The Constitution does not dictate a minimum standard of living for inmates, much less an enjoyable comfortable level of living. This should be Congress' job.

In addition to the initial goal of a national prison standard, this bill has other purposes. It would ensure that State governments are required to spend only that amount necessary to achieve the minimum standard for conditions of confinement mandated by the Constitution. It would further ensure that the Federal courts require only that prison conditions do not constitute the unnecessary infliction of pain or neglect upon inmates, such that they are deprived of the minimum civilized measure of life's basic necessities.

Absent a national standard, convicted criminals enjoy a standard of living higher than that of the law-abiding, working poor. According to the federal government, the standard of living for the law-abiding poor is \$8,000 a year. Yet for a convicted criminal, the average expenditure per prisoner amounts to an unbelievably high \$23,000 a year.

Absent a national standard, the standard of living in prison will continue to escalate. Since 1960, the average total state expenditure per inmate has increased almost twice as fast as median income, and more than twice as fast as the poverty threshold. This is unacceptable.

Many unnecessary amenities, such as regulation softball fields, video games, and premium pay cable channels are provided to criminals, contribute to the increasing standard of living in prisons. Other amenities include expensive musical instruments for traveling "choirs," not to mention martial arts training and boxing. Perhaps here is a primary cause of prison violence. How can one counter the violence if taxpayers' dollars are being spent on the very classes which teach and encourage it?

Absent a national standard, criminals will continue to fight for their "right" to amenities in prison, claiming that denial of same "violates" their Eighth Amendment right against "cruel and unusual punishment." Any violation of our Bill of Rights is, most assuredly, a vital concern and should not be tolerated.

Nor, however, should frivolous claims which do nothing but clog our court systems and deny our citizens speedy access to justice for legitimate cases. Several actual cases demonstrate this. One includes a Utah criminal who claimed that his Eighth Amendment rights were violated when he was provided with Converse tennis shoes, rather than L.A. Gear or Reebok. Another case dealt with an Arkansas criminal who was appalled that he was given paper napkins during meals instead of cloth napkins. Yet another ludicrous example involves a Missouri criminal, who claimed cruel and unusual punishment when he was not provided with salad bars or brunches on weekends. This is absolutely preposterous.

The benefits of this "Crime Doesn't Pay Prison" Act are extensive. As of right now, 25% of the state and federal courts' civil dockets are comprised of inmate challenges to conditions of confinement. This bill would reduce this number considerably. It also frees state Attorneys General to pursue litigation on behalf of the citizenry.

The bill would drastically reduce the increasing cost of incarceration, allowing the money saved thereby to be used instead for the expansion of existing prisons.

It puts an end to the injustice of convicted criminals enjoying a higher standard of living, by mere virtue of their imprisonment, than the law-abiding working poor.

In addition to giving the prison administrators the flexibility to find that medium of good order and discipline within the prisons, perhaps most importantly, this bill would demonstrate to prisoners that criminal behavior will not be rewarded with luxuries beyond the reach of law-abiding, poor Americans.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill. •

MEDICARE WASTE TAX REDUCTION ACT OF 1998

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing with my colleague from South Carolina, Senator HOLLINGS, an important piece of legislation that will help to protect and preserve Medicare. The bill is entitled the Medicare Waste Tax Reduction Act of 1998.

For nearly ten years now, I have worked to combat fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare program. As Chairman and now Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee with oversight of the administration of Medicare, I've held hearing after hearing and released report after report documenting the extent of this problem. While virtually no one was paying attention to our effort for many years, we've succeeded in bringing greater attention and focus to this problem in the past several years.

Part of our effort has been to try to quantify the scope of the problem. Several years ago, the General Accounting Office reported that up to 10 percent of Medicare funds could be lost to fraud, waste and abuse each year.