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

H.R. 309. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to facilitate landscape restoration programs within certain units of the National Park System established by law to preserve and interpret resources associated with American history, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 609. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 786. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Los Angeles River valley of the State of Washington by acquiring titles protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 815. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 886. An act to enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1191. An act to authorize the National Park Service to pay for services rendered by subcomments of the general services administration indefinite deliver indefinite quantity contract issued for work to be completed at the Grand Canyon National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1515. An act to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to treat certain tax-exempt froze payments made by special purpose local governments for purposes of the community development block grant program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1772. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance taxpayer protections and outreach; to the Committee on Finance.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent resolution honoring the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and its past contributions to space research, and looking forward to future accomplishments; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 100. Concurrent resolution condemning the recent violent actions of the Zimbabwean political opposition party activists and members of civil society; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 881. An act to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of the American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of the American National Red Cross in the 21st century; and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-1549. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “American National Red Cross in the 21st century; and for other purposes.”

EC-1557. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “American National Red Cross in the 21st century; and for other purposes.”

EC-1558. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the Army’s Recruiter Incentive Pay Pilot Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1559. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the costs, benefits, necessity, and suitability of support functions for Fort Belvoir and the Engineering Proving Grounds on property in Springfield, Virginia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1560. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final List of Fisheries for 2007” (RIN0648-AC48) received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1561. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Saint Louis, Missouri, for use by the Nevada National Guard; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1562. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “failure to maintain an owner’s legal status as a member of the American National Red Cross in the 21st century.”

EC-1563. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “market price for certain crops produced in this country.”

EC-1564. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onions Grown in California; Exemption of Onions for Export” (Docket No. AMS-FV-06-0182) received on April 16, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1565. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Almonds Grown in California; Outgoing Quality Control Requirements” (Docket No. AMS-FV-06-0181) received on April 16, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1566. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Produce Produced in the Far West; revision of the Salable Quality and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 and Class 3 Spearmint Oil for the 2006-2007 Marketing Year” (RIN0648AC48) received on April 16, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1567. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Olives Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate” (Docket No. AMS-FV-06-0031) received on April 16, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1568. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the Army’s Recruiter Incentive Pay Pilot Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.
EC-1568. A communication from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Waiver of Requirements for Continued Coverage During Retirement” (RIN3206-AK74) received on April 16, 2007, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1569. A communication from the Director, Insurance Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions and Technical Corrections Affecting Requirements for Ex Parte and Inter Partes Reexamination” (RIN0651-AB37) received on April 16, 2007, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. KENNEDY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

*Douglas G. Myers, of California, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

*Jeffrey Patchen, of Indiana, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

*Lotsee Patterson, of Oklahoma, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

*Stephen W. Porter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012.

*Yvonne Poole, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2008.

Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. President, for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary’s desk for the information of Senators.

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

*Public Health Service nominations beginning with Sunee R. Danielson and ending with Mary E. Evans, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 22, 2007.

*Public Health Service nominations beginning with Arturo H. Castro and ending with David J. Lusche, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 11, 2007.

*Public Health Service nominations beginning with David G. Addiss and ending with Allyson M. Alvarado, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 11, 2007.

*Public Health Service nominations beginning with Daniel S. Miller and ending with Darin S. Wiegert, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 11, 2007.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

*Gregory B. Cade, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

By Mr. AKAKA for the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:

*Thomas E. Harvey, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs).

Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BAYH):

S. 1138. A bill to enhance nuclear safeguards and to provide assurances of nuclear fuel cycle activities, to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. 1139. A bill to establish the National Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the limitation on the foreign earned income exclusion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1140. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employees not covered by qualified retirement plans to save for retirement through automatic payroll deductions, to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1141. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employees not covered by qualified retirement plans to save for retirement through automatic payroll deductions, to save retirement by the self-employed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. LAUGHLIN, Mr. CROHER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. PEINDSTEN, Mr. REED, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 1142. A bill to authorize the acquisition of interests in undeveloped coastal areas in order better to ensure their protection from development; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1143. A bill to designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the surrounding Federal land in the State of Florida as an Outstanding Natural Area and as a unit of the National Landscape System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 1144. A bill to provide for an assessment of the achievements by the Government of Iraq on April 15, 2007, with regard to internal control, foreign relations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1145. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BURR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PFEYOR, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. Baucus, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1146. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1147. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as “Priority 8”); to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1148. A bill to establish the Champlain Quadridentennial Commemoration Commission and the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. MURRAYS):

S. 1149. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to authorize the interstate distribution of State-inspected meat and poultry if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the State inspection requirements are at least equal to Federal inspection requirements and to require the Secretary to reimburse State agencies for part of the costs of the inspections; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1150. A bill to enhance the State inspection of meat and poultry in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. OBAMA:

S. 1151. A bill to provide incentives to the auto industry to accelerate efforts to develop more fuel-efficient vehicles and to reduce dependence on oil; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1152. A bill to promote wildland firefighter safety; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SWIFT (for herself and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 1153. A bill to require assessment of the impact on small business concerns of rules relating to internal controls and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. CRAIO):

S. 1154. A bill to promote biofuel production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNACK, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ALARD, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1155. A bill to treat payments under the Conservation Reserve Program as rentals from real estate; to the Committee on Finance.