

## SEC. . GIFTS IN THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Judicial Conference of the United States should review and reevaluate its regulations pertaining to the acceptance of gifts and the acceptance of travel and travel-related expenses and that such regulations should cover all judicial branch employees, including members and employees of the Supreme Court of the United States.

## STEVENS AMENDMENT NO. 1879

Mr. McCAIN (for Mr. STEVENS) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 1872 proposed by Mr. McCAIN to the bill S. 1061, *supra*; as follows:

At the end of the substitute amendment, add the following:

## SEC. 3. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION.

The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on behalf of the Senate, may accept a gift if the gift does not involve any duty, burden, or condition, or is not made dependent upon some future performance by the United States. The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

## WELLSTONE (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 1880

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LAUTENBURG, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, and Mr. CRAIG) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 1872 proposed by Mr. McCAIN to the bill S. 1061, *supra*; as follows:

Strike paragraph 1(a) and insert in lieu thereof the following:

“1. (a)(1) No Member, officer, or employee of the Senate shall knowingly accept a gift except as provided in this rule.

“(2) A Member, officer, or employee may accept a gift (other than cash or cash equivalent) which the Member, officer or employee reasonably and in good faith believes to have a value of less than \$50, and a cumulative value from one source during a calendar year of less than \$100. No gift with a value below \$10 shall count towards the \$100 annual limit. No formal recordkeeping is required by this paragraph, but a Member, officer, or employee shall make a good faith effort to comply with this paragraph.”

## NOTICES OF HEARINGS

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Subcommittee on Post Office and Civil Service, of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold a hearing on August 2, 1995. The Postmaster General of the United States will present the annual report of the Postal Service.

The hearing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Pat Raymond, staff director, at 224-2254.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Special Committee on Aging will hold a hearing on Thursday, August 3, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office

Building. The hearing is entitled “Federal Oversight of Medicare HMO’s: Assuring Beneficiary Protection.”

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and public that a hearing has been scheduled before the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider S. 1054, to provide for the protection of southeast Alaska jobs and communities, and for other purposes.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, August 9, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please contact Mark Rey of the committee staff at (202) 224-2878.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

## COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 28, 1995, to conduct a hearing on the condition of the savings association insurance fund.

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

## COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 28, 1995, to conduct a nomination hearing. (Nominees will include: Herbert F. Collins, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board; and Maria Luisa Mabilangan Haley, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank.)

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

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be permitted to meet on Friday, July 28, 1995, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-215, to conduct a hearing on the debt limit.

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

## COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on health insurance and domestic violence, during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 28, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.

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

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the Senate’s attention a resolution adopted by the National Conference of State Legislatures in opposition to the preemption of State tort law. The conference stated that “no comprehensive evidence exists demonstrating either that State product liability laws have created a problem of such dimension that a Federal solution is warranted or that Federal legislation would achieve its stated goals.” Mr. President, the conference went on to state that they “strongly oppose[s] all legislation before Congress that would have the effect of preempting State laws regulating recovery for injuries caused by defective products.”

I believe that the Senate would be wise to listen to position of the conference of State Legislatures, made up of legislators from all 50 States. The Senate should not federalize our Nation’s tort system and destroy over 200 years of State law. I urge my colleagues to heed the advice of our Nation’s State legislators. I ask that a resolution adopted by the National Conference of State Legislatures be printed in the RECORD.

The resolution follows:

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES RESOLUTION ADOPTED JULY 20, 1995

NCSL has reviewed proposed federal legislation that would preempt state law by severely restricting the rights of persons injured by defective products to seek recovery in state courts. Such legislation fails to meet the standards necessary for federal preemption.

In particular, no comprehensive evidence exists demonstrating either that state product liability laws have created a problem of such dimension that a federal solution is warranted or that federal legislation would achieve its stated goals. NCSL believes that the proposed legislation would create serious new problems in the field of product liability by dictating a single set of rules controlling the timeliness of claims and the admissibility of evidence. It would conflict with long-standing state laws governing tort liability, workers’ compensation and insurance regulations. By doing so, such proposals would place state legislatures and state courts in an intolerable legal straightjacket.

Therefore, in conformance with our general policy in opposition to federal preemption of state law and in the conviction that it is particularly improper for the federal government to attempt to restrict citizen access to state courts, the National Conference of State Legislatures strongly opposes all legislation before Congress that would have the effect of preempting state laws regulating recovery for injuries caused by defective products. •

## TRIBUTE TO THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE U.S. NAVY SUPPLY CORPS

• Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I would like to commend the outstanding service of the U.S. Navy Supply Corps, which is celebrating its bicentennial

this month. The Supply Corps is charged with the responsibility of providing logistical support to all U.S. Navy ships. The Navy Supply Corps was created by Congress in the Naval Armament Act of 1794 and officially began its service to our Nation in 1795.

The Supply Corps has seen many dramatic changes since the early days of its founding. During the late 1790's, each of our Navy ships was assigned a single warrant officer with the enormous responsibility of purchasing and providing all of the necessary equipment and provisions to maintain the ship's daily operations. A modern aircraft carrier serving with the U.S. Navy today may have as many as 15 supply officers aboard. The board variety of duties currently performed by supply officers require them to have detailed knowledge of accounting procedures, food service, foreign currency exchanges, and management of pay records. The Navy Supply Corps School currently trains about 3,800 students per year to become specialists in business, inventory management, financial data processing, transportation, storage procedures, petroleum handling, and purchasing.

I am pleased to note that the Navy Supply Corps School has been located in Athens, GA, since January 15, 1954. Every supply officer serving with the U.S. Navy has been trained at the Supply Corps School in Athens. In addition the school is home to the foreign officer supply course [FOSCO]. Since the course began its operations in 1955, it has graduated more than 1,200 international students/officers from over 50 different countries. The foreign officer supply course serves the extremely important function of increasing the number of military contacts between the United States and other friendly governments. Such contacts enhance the level of understanding between nations and make significant contributions to the cause of peace. Recently, the Navy Supply Corps School received the prestigious "E" Award, which recognizes excellence in the field of training, from the Chief of Naval Education and Training.

The outstanding relationship between the Navy Supply Corps School and the local Athens community should serve as a model for other military installations and host communities to follow. Many of the students and staff at the Navy Supply Corps School actively participate as tutors and mentors for local at-risk students in Athens area schools. While the students benefit from the interaction with much-needed positive role models, the participating service members receive a boost in morale that comes from the realization that they are making a recognizable improvement in the lives of their fellow citizens.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the U.S. Navy Supply Corps for its 200 years of excellent service. We wish it continued success in the future.●

#### PREEMPTION OF STATE PRODUCT LIABILITY LAWS

• Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I have opposed Federal product liability reform legislation primarily because I believe it is a mistake to replace laws that have been carefully crafted by the State courts and legislature over the past two centuries with a one-size-fits-all piece of legislation developed in Washington, DC. Through the time-tested methods of common law adjudication and legislative adjustment, the State courts and legislatures have worked together to develop tort laws that strike the appropriate balance between the needs of plaintiffs and defendants, and those of consumers and business. Over the past decade, the States have been reforming their own tort systems by experimenting with alternative dispute resolution procedures, caps on punitive damages, and changes in liability standards. In fact, the most recent edition of the American Bar Association Journal reports that State legislatures have taken up more than 70 new tort law bills in their current sessions and that new product liability laws have been enacted in Illinois, Michigan, and North Dakota this year.

This is the way the Federal system is supposed to work. When a problem arises, the States should be the forum for experimenting with new practices and devising new solutions. A Federal law, such as the one passed by the Senate, would bring this experimentation to a grinding halt and make Congress, which has virtually no experience legislating in this area, responsible for the entire Nation's product liability system. It is ironic that this extension of Federal power is coming at a time when we are trying to reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government by shifting authority to the States and localities.

Recently, the National Conference of State Legislatures adopted a resolution opposing Federal product liability legislation. The Conference noted the proposed Federal legislation would conflict with State laws governing tort liability, worker's compensation, and insurance and would place State legislatures and courts in an intolerable legal straightjacket.

I ask that the complete text of the National Conference of State Legislature's resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The resolution follows:

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES RESOLUTION ADOPTED JULY 20, 1995

NCSL has reviewed proposed federal legislation that would preempt state law by severely restricting the rights of persons injured by defective products to seek recovery in state courts. Such legislation fails to meet the standards necessary for federal pre-emption.

In particular, no comprehensive evidence exists demonstrating either that state product liability laws have created a problem of such dimension that a federal solution is warranted or that federal legislation would achieve its stated goals. NCSL believes that

the proposed legislation would create serious new problems in the field of product liability by dictating a single set of rules controlling the timeliness of claims and the admissibility of evidence. It would conflict with long-standing state laws governing tort liability, workers' compensation and insurance regulations. By doing so, such proposals would place state legislatures and state courts in an intolerable legal straightjacket.

Therefore, in conformance with our general policy in opposition to federal preemption of state law and in the conviction that it is particularly improper for the federal government to attempt to restrict citizen access to state courts, the National Conference of State Legislatures strongly opposes all legislation before Congress that would have the effect of preempting state laws regulating recovery for injuries caused by defective products.●

#### THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ANTITRUST REFORM ACT

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate Judiciary Committee began consideration of the Major League Baseball Antitrust Reform Act, S. 627. I look forward to the committee completing its consideration of this measure at our next business meeting and reporting it to the Senate.

This year the major league season did not begin, of course, until a Federal judge granted an injunction and the owners and players, who had shut the game down last August and robbed fans of pennant races and a World Series, finally declared a ceasefire in their ongoing hostilities. They had to scramble to begin a shortened 144-game schedule.

As far as I can tell the owners and the players have not gotten back to the bargaining table. They are no closer to reaching a collective bargaining agreement than they were 3 months ago. A further unfair trade practices complaint remains pending against the owners.

Interest in major league baseball is undeniably down. Attendance figures show it—they are down between 20 and 30 percent. Ratings for the recent All Star Game were down 10 percent from last year. Advertising and merchandising revenues show it, as well. Both NBC and ABC recently indicated that they will not even bid on broadcast rights for baseball in the future.

In spite of the outstanding years that the Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Indians, California Angels, Cincinnati Reds, Colorado Rockies and Atlanta Braves are having and the young, talented players throughout the leagues, the unsettled business affairs that haunt major league baseball and disillusioned many of its fans. Older fans have been turned off and the younger ones have decided to spend their time and attention on other pursuits.

Meanwhile interest and attendance at minor league baseball games continues. If the Vermont Expos are any indication, fans turned off by the excesses of major league baseball have turned to minor league games. Attendance at Centennial Field for Expos' games is up more than 10 percent and merchandise