

the President of the United States would be absent.

But President Clinton's attendance at the Moscow summit in no way signals tacit approval of Russia's brutal behavior in Chechnya. On the contrary, President Clinton will make clear, as he has done in the past, that while we support the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, we strongly condemn Russian attacks on civilians in Chechnya. The President will, I trust, also call on President Yeltsin to extend the current cease-fire in Chechnya and make it permanent.

Mr. President, another area of profound difference with the Kremlin is the proposed sale of a Russian nuclear powerplant and delivery of nuclear technology and training to Iran. Even though, legally speaking, Moscow is correct that its proposed sale falls within international guidelines, I am convinced that Iran has embarked upon a program to build nuclear weapons and, hence, that the sale would be a reckless and counterproductive act.

Although it is highly unlikely at this point that Russia can be made to back down totally, President Clinton—on site, face-to-face with President Yeltsin—will be able to press for important adjustments such as preventing the sale of a gas centrifuge plant, which would significantly increase the danger of Iran's being able to produce weapons-grade enriched uranium. Also, the President may push for an agreement whereby spent nuclear fuel would be returned from Iran to Russia.

I have been dismayed at recent bellicose statements by Senior Russian officials against NATO expansion. In Moscow, President Clinton will make crystal-clear to President Yeltsin that Russia does not have veto power over any actions of NATO, including the alliance's enlargement.

In addition, President Clinton will reiterate that NATO has always been a defensive alliance and that binding qualified Central and East European democracies into the alliance's comprehensive security system will enhance stability in the region and thereby be a gain, not a danger, for Russia. The President might pose the rhetorical question to Yeltsin whether Russia would prefer that there be potential isolated loose cannon countries in the middle of Europe or fully integrated members of a defensive alliance led by the United States. The answer is surely the latter.

In Moscow, President Clinton will be able to urge President Yeltsin to sign Russia up formally as a member of the Partnership for Peace so that it can participate on an ongoing basis in a range of discussions with NATO.

There are other crucially important outstanding issues to discuss with the Russians at the Moscow summit. President Clinton will undoubtedly urge that Russia continue its budget austerity and privatization programs and other economic reforms.

Several arms control issues will certainly be on the agenda, including prospects for ratification of START II, crafting a joint strategy in support of the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, demarcation between antiballistic missiles and tactical missile defense, and holding to the terms of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

President Clinton will, I am certain, explain in Moscow that cooperation on the issues I have enumerated would strengthen Russia's case for membership in important international bodies such as the Group of Seven Advanced Industrial Nations.

On the other hand, threatening to curtail economic and technical assistance to Russia because of disagreements with Russian policy, as some in the majority party in Congress have advocated, would be "shooting ourselves in the foot," since such a move could only serve to harm the transitions to a free-market economy and true political democracy in Russia that are very much in the United States national interest.

Mr. President, the way to move forward in our emerging relationship with the new Russia is not to sit pouting on the sidelines. Rather, it is to engage the Russians in open, frank, even contentious dialog.

Americans can be proud that we have a President thoroughly versed in all these highly complex matters and able to bring the full weight of the Presidency to bear in face-to-face negotiations.

I know that all Americans join me in wishing President Clinton every success in his vitally important mission.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### 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-876. A communication from the Comptroller of the Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to obligations incurred in FY 1994 by US military obligations in Haiti; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-877. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Foreign Comparative Testing Program for fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-878. A communication from the Chairwoman of the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Scientific Advisory Board's annual report for fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-879. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's responses to recommendations of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### 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. INOUE:

S. 763. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for the vessel *Evening Star*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GLENN:

S. 764. A bill to amend the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 to require that determinations concerning the status of a child as an Indian child be prospective the child's date of birth, and that determinations of membership status in an Indian tribe be based on the minority status of a member or written consent of an initial member over the age of 18, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 765. A bill to amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to require the Administrator of General Services to prioritize construction and alteration projects in accordance with merit-based needs criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. PELL, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. GLENN, Mr. ROTH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. EXON, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. FORD, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH,

Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. NUNN, Mr. PACKWOOD, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SIMON, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. Res. 115. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that America's World War II veterans and their families are deserving of this nation's respect and appreciation on the 50th anniversary of V-E Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. PRESSLER):

S. Res. 116. A resolution recognizing and commending the Lakota and Dakota Code Talkers; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 763. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for the vessel *Evening Star*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### DOCUMENTATION FOR THE VESSEL "EVENING STAR"

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, this private relief bill that I am introducing would authorize a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for the vessel *Evening Star*, a small boat to be used for interisland charters. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### S. 763

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CERTIFICATE OF DOCUMENTATION.

Notwithstanding sections 12106 through 12108 of title 46, United States Code, and section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (46 U.S.C. App. 883), the Secretary of Transportation may issue a certificate of documentation and coastwise trade endorsement for the vessel EVENING STAR, hull identification number HA2833700774, and State of Hawaii registration number HA8337D.

By Mr. GLENN:

S. 764. A bill to amend the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 to require that determinations concerning the status of a child as an Indian child be prospective the child's date of birth, and that determinations of membership status in an Indian tribe be based on the minority status of a member or written consent of an initial member over the age of 18, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

#### INDIAN CHILD WELFARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Indian Child Welfare Improvement Act of 1995. Representative DEBORAH PRYCE has introduced companion legislation in the House. The purpose of this bill is to clarify the definition of "Indian child" in the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Indian Child Welfare Improvement Act of 1995. Representative DEBORAH PRYCE has introduced companion legislation in the House. The purpose of this bill is to clarify the definition of "Indian child" in the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

Mr. President, this legislation is a direct response to a situation involving a family in Ohio. The Rost family of Columbus, OH received custody of twin baby girls in the State of California in November 1993, following the voluntary relinquishment of parental rights by both birth parents. The biological father did not disclose his native American heritage in response to a specific question on the relinquishment document. In February 1994, the birth father informed his mother of the pending adoption. Two months later in April 1994, the birth father's mother enrolled herself, the birth father and the twin girls with the Pomo Indian Tribe in California. The adoption agency was then notified that the twins may be eligible for tribal membership, and that the adoption could not be finalized without a determination of the applicability of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The bill I am introducing today clarifies existing law. The definition of Indian child in my bill would limit the applicability of the Indian Child Welfare Act to those living on a reservation and their children, and those who are members of an Indian tribe. In addition, the bill would stipulate that for the purpose of a child custody proceeding involving an Indian child, membership in an Indian tribe is effective from the actual date of admission in the Indian tribe and cannot be applied retroactively.

To do otherwise, Mr. President, is not acting in the best interests of the adopted children, and that is my principal concern—the interests of the children.

Mr. President, I believe that this bill does not in any way weaken or compromise current law or protections extended to Native American children and families. The Indian Child Welfare Act was enacted to provide safeguards or standards with respect to State court proceedings involving Indian child custody matters, in an effort to curb involuntary separation of Indian children from their Indian families, heritage, and culture. These objectives and protections are not threatened by the bill I am introducing.

Mr. President, the Rost family is now facing a very difficult situation. This bill and the one introduced by Representative PRYCE will clarify the In-

dian Child Welfare Act, and I urge its passage by the Senate.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 765. A bill to amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to require the Administrator of General Services to prioritize construction and alteration projects in accordance with merit-based needs criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

#### FEDERAL BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTION AND ALTERATION FUNDING IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I'm introducing legislation to help ensure that funding for the construction and repair of Federal buildings is allocated according to need and priority.

First, the bill would require the President to submit the administration's building construction budget request in the form of a prioritized list of projects. Second, and most importantly, the bill would require the General Services Administration to prepare and maintain a ranked priority list of all ongoing and proposed construction projects. The list would be updated and reprioritized with each new project added either through administrative or congressional action.

Last year, the U.S. Government spent nearly \$400 million on Federal building construction and repair. That is an enormous sum of money. Clearly, the Federal building construction program can and must share in the sacrifice as we seek to gain control over the deficit.

As we rein in spending, it's more critical now than ever to ensure that scarce financial resources are allocated to our highest priorities.

In order to trim the fat in an informed and efficient manner Congress, the administration and the taxpaying public must know what our construction priorities are.

Earlier this year, during debate on the rescission bill, the Senate considered proposals to cut Federal construction funding. The list of projects proposed for defunding was rather arbitrary and capricious. The tenets of good government dictate that when we reduce spending, our lowest priorities should be put on the chopping block first. Yet, Congress can not readily determine what those priorities are. By requiring the General Services Administration, which administers the Federal building fund, to maintain a ranked list of project priorities, we can be sure that funding decisions will be made on the basis of merit rather than politics or congressional caprice.

Mr. President, foremost, this amendment will help us address the pork barrel politics which has played far too great a role in the process of Federal building construction. Currently, when a member decides a new building is needed in his or her State or district, the General Services Administration conducts what's known as an 11b survey to determine the need. In most cases, the GSA determines that a need