

determining the status of certain missing members of the Armed Forces and certain civilians, and for other purposes.

S. 354

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 354, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to encourage the preservation of low-income housing.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to eliminate the National Education Standards and Improvement Council and opportunity-to-learn standards.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA] and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 471, a bill to provide for the payment to States of plot allowances for certain veterans eligible for burial in a national cemetery who are buried in cemeteries of such States.

S. 495

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the names of the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT], the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. PRESSLER], and the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] were added as cosponsors of S. 495, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to stabilize the student loan programs, improve congressional oversight, and for other purposes.

S. 508

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 508, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to the treatment of forestry activities.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish outpatient medical services for any disability of a former prisoner of war.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 674

At the request of Mr. EXON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 674, a bill entitled the "Rail Investment Act of 1995".

S. 738

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend the Helium Act to

prohibit the Bureau of Mines from refining helium and selling refined helium, to dispose of the United States helium reserve, and for other purposes.

S. 749

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 749, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the authority relating to the Center for Women Veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 83

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 83, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding tax cuts during the 104th Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 97

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH] and the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 97, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to peace and stability in the South China Sea.

SENATE RESOLUTION 103

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 103, a resolution to proclaim the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Week, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 709

At the request of Mr. GORTON the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 709 proposed to H.R. 956, a bill to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 117—RELATING TO DEDUCTIONS FOR HOME MORTGAGES

Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 117

Whereas homeownership is an important factor in promoting economic security and stability for American families;

Whereas homeownership is a fundamental American ideal, which promotes social and economic benefits beyond the benefits that accrue to the occupant of the home;

Whereas homeownership promotes and stabilizes neighborhoods and communities;

Whereas it is proper that the policy of the Federal Government is and should continue to be to encourage homeownership;

Whereas the increase in the cost of housing over the last 10 years has been greater than the increase in family income;

Whereas for the first time in 50 years, the percentage of people in the United States owning their own homes has declined;

Whereas the percentage of people in the United States between the ages of 25 and 29 who own their own homes has declined from 43 percent in 1976 to 38 percent today;

Whereas the current Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by first homes located in the United States has been a valuable cornerstone of this Nation's housing policy for most this century and may well be the most important component of housing-related tax policy in America today;

Whereas the current Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by second homes located in the United States is of crucial importance to the economies of many communities; and

Whereas the Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by a first or second home has been limited twice in the last 6 years, and was further eroded as a result of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the current Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by a first or second home located in the United States should not be further restricted.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, of the challenges confronting America today—challenges that must be addressed by this Congress—the security of the American family is paramount. Much has been written and spoken about the welfare of family life, about the need to keep the family unit strong in our effort to secure a bright and productive American future.

One of the significant resources our families have is home ownership. Indeed, this resource is of such value that home ownership is considered the icon of the American dream. It lends to economic, physical, and emotional security. It keeps our neighborhoods strong and contributes to a necessary sense of community. It gives families not only a stake in the future, but a means to improve the future. Home equity and ownership often become the means by which we send our children to college, finance small businesses, or prepare for retirement.

It's clear that the benefits of home ownership go far beyond the family; they contribute to society as a whole. For example, the property tax base is often the foundation for public education. And as a Nation we have been richly rewarded by the Government policies that have encouraged people to realize the American dream.

What concerns me today, Mr. President, is that a full 60 percent of Americans can no longer afford a median-priced home. It concerns me that the increase in the cost of housing over the last 10 years has been greater than the increase in family income. And it concerns me that for the first time in 50 years, the percentage of people in the United States owning their own homes has declined.

When trends like these threaten the American Dream, and these trends are being felt, Mr. President, I was troubled by a Gallup-CBS polls taken recently that showed that 8 out of every 10 Americans believe it will be harder for the next generation to achieve the American Dream—8 out of every 10. When these trends threaten the American Dream of home ownership, we must be clear in our policies here in Washington, that we will continue to work to promote an environment of security and opportunity.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my distinguished colleague from Delaware, Senator ROTH, in submitting a resolution to prevent further restriction of the Federal income tax deduction for home mortgage interest. To further limit or eliminate the deductibility of mortgage interest for homeowners—the majority of which are middle-income Americans—would be to restrict their ability to buy into the American dream.

It is no secret that homeownership is a fundamental American ideal. Cutting or wiping out this deduction, which has been available to Americans since 1913, will simply put the possibility of homeownership out of reach for many Americans. The mortgage interest deduction is one of a number of tax benefits that serves a good social purpose. It is not an unintended loophole but, rather, a provision created to foster investment by the private sector. The home mortgage interest deduction has served as one of the cornerstones of our national housing policy, making us one of the best housed countries in the world and creating safe and secure neighborhoods.

Further restrictions could also have a disastrous effect on the American housing industry, especially if interest rates continue to rise. People simply will not be able to buy homes, which would have a devastating impact on the economy, particularly the banking, lending and construction industries. Higher unemployment rates would result and local governments would suffer, as shrinking homeownership would, in turn, mean a dwindling tax base.

Mr. President, the National Association of Home Builders estimates that eliminating the home mortgage interest deduction would reduce the value of an average American home by about 20 percent. For all intents and purposes this would have the effect of a heavy tax increase. For the sake of the economy and middle-income Americans we cannot erode the American dream: homeownership.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118—CONCERNING UNITED STATES-JAPAN TRADE RELATIONS

Mr. BYRD (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. REID, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SPECTER, Mr.

BROWN, and Mr. D'AMATO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 118

Whereas, the United States and Japan have a long and important relationship which serves as an anchor of peace and stability in the Pacific region;

Whereas, tension exists in an otherwise normal and friendly relationship between the United States and Japan because of persistent and large trade deficits which are the result of practices and regulations which have substantially blocked legitimate access of American automotive products to the Japanese market;

Whereas, the current account trade deficit with Japan in 1994 reached an historic high level of \$66 billion, of which \$37 billion, or 56 percent, is attributed to imbalances in automotive sector, and of which \$12.8 billion is attributable to auto parts flows;

Whereas, in July, 1993, the Administration reached a broad accord with the Government of Japan, which established automotive trade as one of 5 priority areas for negotiations, to seek market-opening arrangements based on objective criteria and which would result in objective progress;

Whereas, a healthy American automobile industry is of central importance to the American economy, and to the capability of the United States to fulfill its commitments to remain as an engaged, deployed, Pacific power;

Whereas, after 18 months of negotiations with the Japanese, beginning in September 1993, the U.S. Trade Representative concluded that no progress had been achieved, leaving the auto parts market in Japan "virtually closed";

Whereas, in October, 1994, the United States initiated an investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 into the Japanese auto parts market, which could result in the imposition of trade sanctions on a variety of Japanese imports into the United States unless measurable progress is made in penetrating the Japanese auto parts market;

Whereas, the latest round of U.S.-Japan negotiations on automotive trade, in Whistler, Canada, collapsed in failure on May 5, 1995, and the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Kantor, stated the "government of Japan has refused to address our most fundamental concerns in all areas" of automotive trade, and that "discrimination against foreign manufacturers of autos and auto parts continues."

Whereas, President Clinton stated, on May 5, 1995, that the U.S. is "committed to taking strong action" regarding Japanese imports into the U.S. if no agreement is reached.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the Senate that—

(1) The Senate regrets that negotiations between the United States and Japan for sharp reductions in the trade imbalances in automotive sales and parts, through elimination of restrictive Japanese market-closing practices and regulations, have collapsed;

(2) If negotiations under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 fail to open the Japanese auto parts market, the United States Senate strongly supports the decision by the President to impose sanctions on Japanese products in accordance with Section 301.

SENATE RESOLUTION 119—AUTHORIZING REPRESENTATION BY LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. GORTON (for Mr. DOLE, for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the

following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 119

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. George C. Matthews*, Case No. 95-CR-11, pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, a subpoena for testimony has been issued to Darin Schroeder, an employee of the Senate on the staff of Senator Feingold;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2) (1994), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent committees, Members, officers and employees of the Senate with respect to subpoenas or orders issued to them in their official capacity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Darin Schroeder and any other employees in Senator Feingold's office from whom testimony may be necessary are authorized to testify and to produce records in the case of *United States v. George C. Matthews*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. That the Senate Legal Counsel is directed to represent Darin Schroeder and any other employee in connection with the testimony authorized under section 1.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY REFORM ACT

BYRD (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 730

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BYRD (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. REID, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. ASHCROFT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to amendment No. 690, proposed by Mr. COVERDELL to amendment No. 596, proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert

Inasmuch as, the United States and Japan have a long and important relationship which serves as an anchor of peace and stability in the Pacific region;

Inasmuch as, tension exists in an otherwise normal and friendly relationship between the United States and Japan because of persistent and large trade deficits which are the result of practices and regulations which have substantially blocked legitimate access of American products to the Japanese market;

Inasmuch as, the current account trade deficit with Japan in 1994 reached an historic high level of \$66 billion, of which \$37 billion, or 56 percent, is attributed to imbalances in automotive sector, and of which \$12.8 billion is attributable to auto parts flows;