as once was thought. In an article entitled "Even Some New Software Won't Work in 2000," the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday, September 18, 1996, that owners of personal computers will be affected as well. Mr. Lee Gomes wrote: "In fact, tens of millions of PC owners will be affected. Current or very recent versions of such best sellers as Quicken, FileMaker Pro and at least one brand-new program from Microsoft will stumble at the approach of Jan. 1, 2000. There will be hardware hiccups, too. Many PC owners will have to take extra steps to teach their systems about the new millennium."

Early in 1996, John Westergaard first informed me of this impending problem. I asked the Congressional Research Service to assess its extent. In July, CRS reported back and substantiated the doomsayers' worst fears. I immediately wrote to the President, alerted him to the problem and suggested that a presidential aide—a general perhaps—be appointed to take responsibility for assuring that all Federal agencies and Government contractors be Y2K date-compliant by January 1, 1999. No word back yet.

Over the past few weeks I have periodically updated my colleagues in the Senate as to the nature of this problem, the possible costs of the problem, and advances in thinking about the problem. The business community has begun to stir, but it seems all is quiet here in the Nation's capital, or nearly quiet.

Today, I am introducing a bill to establish a nonpartisan commission on the year 2000 computer problem. It will be composed of 15 members—five selected by the President; 5, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and 5, the Speaker of the House of Representatives—in consultation with the minority leaders respectively. The commission will study the problem, analyze its costs, and provide immediate recommendations and requirements for the Secretary of Defense, the President, and Congress. Because of the urgency of this problem, the commission will complete its study and make its report to the President by December 31, 1997. The onus is now on us to see this bill passed.

I urge my colleagues to recognize this problem, and help establish this Commission. As Mr. Davis warned, we have begun a "Countdown to a Meltdown." The longer we delay, the more costly the solution and the more dire the consequences. The computer has been a blessing; if we do not act in a timely fashion, however, it could become the curse of the age.

I ask unanimous consent that the Wall Street Journal article of Wednesday, September 18, 1996, entitled "Even Some New Software Won't Work in 2000," by Lee Gomes, be included in the RECORD.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 18, 1996]

EVEN SOME NEW SOFTWARE WON'T WORK IN 2000

(By Lee Gomes)

In his syndicated newspaper column this past July, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates answered an anxious reader's question about whether PC owners have to worry about the "Year 2000 problem," which is now roiling the world of corporate mainframes.

"Most PC users won't be affected," wrote Mr. Gates. "There shouldn't be much of an issue with up-to-date software. Microsoft software, for instance, won't cause problems."

The reply may have been reassuring, but it was also wrong. In fact, tens of millions of PC owners will be affected. Current or very recent versions of such best-sellers as Quicken, File Maker Pro and at least one brand-new program from Microsoft will stumble at the approach of Jan. 1, 2000. There will be hardware hiccups, too. Many PC owners will have to take extra steps to teach their systems about the new millennium.

The date rollover will trip up computers because programmers have tended to use only two-digit numbers to represent years—"96" instead of "1996"—assuming that all dates would be in the 20th century.

As a result, 40 months from now, unfixed computers will calculate, for example, that "00" is "1900," and thus an earlier date than "99," and decline to perform certain functions.

The good news is that fixing any Year 2000 problems on PCs will seem like a picnic compared with the data-processing nightmare now occurring in the corporate world. For PC owners, a few simple steps will usually take care of things—assuming users can identify the problem.

But, as Mr. Gates's two-month-old column suggests, the fact that the Year 2000 is a PC issue at all will come as a surprise to many, including some in the industry. At Microsoft, the company has realized only in the past few weeks that some of its own software is not "Year 2000 compliant." Many other software companies, when first asked, said they had no Year 2000 difficulties, only to call back a few days later to report that they had found some after all.

Unlike mainframe makers, though, PC companies don't have much excuse for having problems. Mainframe programmers took short cuts during the '60s and '70s because computer memory was then a precious commodity. But some PC programmers followed that lead, even after memory was no longer in short supply and the new millennium was much closer. The moral: Even in an industry whose leaders often portray themselves as social and technical visionaries, companies can suffer from old-fashioned short-sightedness.

So what exactly is the problem? Many PC software programs allow users to enter years using either a four-digit or two-digit format that can lead some PC programs astray. Intuit Inc.'s Quicken financial program, for example, lets people schedule future electronic payments up to a year in advance. Come late 1999, a user trying to set up a payment for "01/10/00" will get a message saying, in effect, that it's too late to make a payment for 1900. To schedule the payment, users will have to know enough to type "01/10/2000" or use a special Quicken shortcut.

The fall release of Quicken will fix the problem, says Roy Rosin, the Quicken for Windows product manager at Intuit. The company didn't fix it before because "it just wasn't on the radar screen." The new Quicken, he adds, will assume that any two-digit date occurs between 1950 and 2027; a four-

digit year date can still specify a date outside that period. The approach is a common one for Year 2000 compliant software.

Microsfot's problem arises with Access 95, the database program that was shipped last August with Windows 95. Like Quicken, Access 95 doesn't properly handle two-digit dates after "99," says Douglas S. Dedo, who is handling most Year 2000 questions for Microsoft.

Doesn't that show a lack of foresight by Microsoft programmers? "I couldn't agree with you more," replies Mr. Dedo. He says the omission will be corrected in the next version of the product, to be released next year. As with Quicken, Access 95 users can work around the problem by using a four-digit date.

Microsfot's operating systems, by themselves, don't have a Year 2000 problem, says Mr. Dedo, and neither do such major company products as the Excel spreadsheet program.

There is, though, an annoying problem with the basic date-keeping portion of a PC's hardware, called the CMOS, says Tom Becker of Air System Technologies Inc. in Miami. In this case, the blame belongs to International Business Machines Corp. and the basic PC design it set down in the mid-1980s. It turns out, Mr. Becker says, that the CMOS is something of a dolt in keeping track of centuries. As a result, many PC owners will need to manually reset the date to the Year 2000 the first time they use their machines in the 21st century.

Mr. Dedo says that Microsoft's newer operating systems, Windows 95 and Windows NT, will fix hardware date glitches automatically. He adds that the company is also working on fixer programs that will do the same for older DOS and Windows 3.1-based machines.

Year 2000 difficulties will probably occur mainly on the IBM compatible side of the house. Apple Computer Inc.'s Macintosh computer has no such problems, says an Apple spokesman.

But some recent Apple programs do, including both the Mac and Windows versions of FileMaker Pro, a popular database project that the Apple-owned Claris Corp. shipped until last December. For forthcoming versions, says Claris's Christopher Crim, the company took pains to make sure all dates were converted from two to four digits before being stored. "We've learned our lesson," Mr. Crim says.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1044

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1044, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize provisions relating to health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1505

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. SIMPSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1505, a bill to reduce risk to public safety and the environment associated with pipeline transportation of natural gas and hazardous liquids, and for other purposes.

S. 1965

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1965, a bill to prevent the illegal manufacturing and use of methamphetamine.

S. 2030

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2030, a bill to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, nonrepairable, and rebuilt vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2034, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make certain changes to hospice care under the Medicare Program.

S. 2047

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the application of the pension nondiscrimination rules to governmental plans.

S. 2057

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] and the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] were added as cosponsors of S. 2057, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs guarantee loans with adjustable rate mortgages.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2101, a bill to provide educational assistance to the dependents of Federal law enforcement officials who are killed or disabled in the performance of their duties.

SENATE RESOLUTION 285

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 285, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of State should make improvements in Cambodia's record on human rights, the environment, narcotics trafficking and the Royal Government of Cambodia's conduct among the primary objectives in our bilateral relations with Cambodia.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS JOINT RESOLUTION

FAIRCLOTH (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 5402

Mr. FAIRCLOTH (for himself, Mr. SIMON, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. ABRAHAM) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 63) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following new section:

EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZED PERIOD OF STAY FOR CERTAIN NURSES

SEC. . (a) ALIENS WHO PREVIOUSLY ENTERED THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO AN H–IA VISA.—

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authorized period of stay in the United States of any nonimmigrant described in paragraph (2) is hereby extended through September 30, 1997.

(2) A nonimmigrant described in this paragraph is a nonimmigrant—

(A) who entered the United States as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(a);

(B) who was within the United States on or after September 1, 1995, and who is within the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(C) whose period of authorized stay has expired or would expire before September 30, 1997 but for the provisions of this section.

(3) Nothing in this section may be construed to extend the validity of any visa issued to a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or to authorize the re-entry of any person outside the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT.—A nonimmigrant whose authorized period of stay is extended by operation of this section shall be eligible to change employers in accordance with section 214.2(h)(2)(i)(D) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall issue regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

(d) INTERIM TREATMENT.—A nonimmigrant whose authorized period of stay is extended by operation of this section, and the spouse and child of such nonimmigrant, shall be considered as having continued to maintain lawful status as a nonimmigrant through September 30, 1997.

THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT

PRESSLER AMENDMENT NO. 5403

Mr. GRASSLEY (for Mr. PRESSLER) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1311) to establish a National Fitness and Sports Foundation to carry out activities to support and supplement the mission of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 2, line 8, strike "nonprofit" and insert "not for profit".

On page 2, line 10, after the period insert the following: "The Foundation shall be established as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and shall be presumed, for purposes of such Code, to be such an organization until the Secretary of the Treasury determines that the Foundation does not meet the requirements applicable to such an organization. Section 508(a) of such Code does not apply to the Foundation.".

On page 5, line 8, after the period, insert the following: "The three numbers appointed by the Secretary shall include the representative of the United States Olympic Committee.".

On page 5, line 21, after the period insert the following: "The Chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness shall serve as Chairperson until a Chairman is elected by the Board.".

On page 12, line 4, strike "contributors," and insert "contributions,".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, in open session, to receive testimony on the impact of the Bosian elections and the deployment of United States military forces to Bosnia and the Middle East.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet twice during the Wednesday, September 25, 1996, session of the Senate for the purpose of conducting a hearing on the Mars discovery and a hearing on the treatment of families after airline accidents.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be permitted to meet Wednesday, September 25, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SH–215, to conduct a markup on a committee amendment to H.R. 3815.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, at 10 a.m. to hold a business meeting to vote on pending items, and for the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs to meet at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, at 1:30 p.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on the phase-out of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on White House access to FBI background summaries.

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