

Today, I would like to congratulate all of the teams who participated in this year's tournaments. In particular, I would like to commend the high schools of Warner, Douglas, and Mitchell for having earned their respective State boys' basketball championship titles in 1996. Clearly, these schools exemplify the commitment to excellence and teamwork that all South Dakota high schools share with their communities.

HOW MUCH FOREIGN OIL BEING CONSUMED BY UNITED STATES? HERE'S TODAY'S WEEKLY BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that, for the week ending March 15, the U.S. imported 7,145,000 barrels of oil each day, 752,000 barrels more than the 6,393,000 barrels imported during the same period a year ago.

Americans now rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of their needs, and there are no signs that this upward trend will abate.

The increasingly dangerous U.S. dependency on foreign oil must be addressed by those who care about restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers.

The American people should consider the economic calamity that will occur if and when foreign producers shut off our supply, or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 7,145,000 barrels a day. We must not delay in seeking to solve this troubling problem.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, 4 years ago when I commenced these daily reports to the Senate it was my purpose to make a matter of daily record the exact Federal debt as of the close of business the previous day.

In that first report—February 27, 1992—the Federal debt the previous day stood at \$3,825,891,293,066.80, as of the close of business. The point is, the Federal debt has since shot further into the stratosphere.

As of yesterday at the close of business, a total of \$1,233,906,465,897.14 has been added to the Federal debt since February 26, 1992, meaning that as of the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 20, 1996, the exact Federal debt stood at \$5,059,797,758,963.94. (On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,131.71 as his or her share of the Federal debt.)

FRANKLIN N. MEISSNER DAY ON THE SOUTH SHORE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Massachusetts' finest citizens, Franklin N. Meissner, and his contributions to the business

community on the south shore of Massachusetts.

Next Tuesday, March 26, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce will be honoring Frank Meissner, who is the chamber's past chairman. The south shore chamber is currently the second largest chamber of commerce in Massachusetts, and it is also one of the largest suburban business organizations in the country. With its substantial resources and its committed membership, the chamber has been an instrumental factor in promoting economic growth and community development that benefits all families in southern Massachusetts.

Frank Meissner has been deeply involved in all of these initiatives and he deserves great credit for their success. He is currently the president of Electro Switch Corp., which employs almost 300 people. He also serves as director of both the Bank of Braintree and the South Shore Hospital, and is also the past president and still an active member of the Weymouth Rotary Club.

I congratulate Frank Meissner for his many achievements and for his leadership in so many effective ways for the people of the South Shore. March 26 is truly Franklin N. Meissner Day on the south shore, and all of us are proud of him.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to be a sponsor of the resolution designating March 25, 1996 as Greek Independence Day.

On this, the 175th anniversary of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire, we honor the courageous struggle by the Greeks to regain their freedom. After being ruled by the Ottoman Turks for four centuries, the people of Greece were able to restore democracy for the Nation where democracy was first born in the ancient world.

The people of Greece have made extraordinary contributions to all nations of the world, and no country has benefited more from these contributions than the United States. It has been said that except for the blind forces of nature, nothing moves in this world which is not Greek in origin. Our Founding Fathers modeled our own system of democratic government on the basic principles of democracy of ancient Greece, and over 3-million Greek-Americans today continue to make valuable contributions to all aspects of American life. This resolution, in commemorating Greek Independence Day, also commemorates the close and enduring ties between our two nations. Long may they flourish.

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1266. An act to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1787. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to repeal the saccharin notice requirement.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 2:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence Senate:

H.J. Res. 165. Joint resolution making further appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-503. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

"JOINT RESOLUTION

"Whereas, the federal budget allocates less heating assistance for low-income homeowners than provided in previous years; and
"Whereas, food stamp assistance under certain circumstances is linked to heating assistance; and

"Whereas, the significant reduction in heating assistance to 54,000 households in Maine, 12,000 of which involve subsidized housing and 7,000 of this 12,000 involve elderly households, will have a severe impact on Maine people, especially those receiving food stamps; and

"Whereas, cuts to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program are concurrent with cutbacks in the prescription drug program, increases in Medicare premiums and the loss of food stamps. These cuts will be especially hard felt by Maine seniors and the disabled community who rely on these programs in their day-to-day existence; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we, your Memorialists, respectfully recommend and urge the Congress of the United States to change current federal policy to allow persons who meet the eligibility requirements for food stamps but who do not receive heating assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to receive food stamps in the same amount as they would have received had

they received heating assistance; and be it further

"Resolved, That we, your Memorialists, respectfully recommend and urge the Congress of the United States to restore heating assistance and weatherization funds that have been recently cut in order that states such as Maine, which ranks 33rd in the nation with respect to median household income, do not have to make the choice whether people starve or freeze; and be it further

"Resolved, That suitable copies of this Memorial, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation."

POM-504. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

"HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4017"

"Whereas, nonnative noxious weeds pose a substantial and significant threat to the economic welfare of the citizens of the state of Washington in that noxious weeds are detrimental or destructive of crops, fruit, trees, shrubs, valuable plants, forage, other cultivation, and agricultural plants or produce; and

"Whereas, in recognition of the substantial threat to economic welfare, the state of Washington has mandated the control and eradication of nonnative noxious weeds on all privately held and state-held lands, which has up to this time been effectively managed by the state of Washington; and

"Whereas, nonnative noxious weeds continue to proliferate and burgeon on lands that are the property of the United States of America, or under the control of the United States; and

"Whereas, the failure of the federal government of the United States to control or eradicate nonnative noxious weeds poses a substantial and significant threat to the economic welfare of the citizens of the state of Washington in that these weeds are detrimental or destructive of crops, fruits, trees, shrubs, valuable plants, forage, other cultivation, and agricultural plants or produce; and

"Whereas, this nonfeasance and malfeasance of the federal government, committed by and through the principal instrumentality of the United States Forest Service, is in direct violation of federal law and regulation; namely, the Carlson-Foley Act and Federal Noxious Weed Act; and

"Whereas, the previously mentioned unrestrained propagation and exponential reproduction of nonnative noxious weeds is an exigent economic and agricultural peril; and

"Now, therefore, your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress recognize the enormous threat to the economic and agricultural welfare of the state of Washington, caused by the failure of the federal government to control or eradicate the agricultural and economic menacing nonnative noxious weeds, within the borders of the state of Washington and upon property of the United States of America or property under control of the United States, and as much, immediately direct all federal instrumentalities and agencies managing or controlling this property to comply with all relevant laws and regulations regarding control or eradication of nonnative noxious weeds in the state of Washington; and be it

"Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,

and each member of Congress from the State of Washington."

POM-505. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

"RESOLUTION"

"Whereas, commencing on January 7, 1996, the Commonwealth suffered from the loss of lives and severe property and economic damages as a result of the Blizzard of 1996, which was followed by unreasonable thaws, torrential rains and resulting flooding; and

"Whereas, the President of the United States has declared this entire Commonwealth a major disaster area because of extensive flooding, making individuals and businesses eligible for disaster assistance for flood damages, but not for similar blizzard-related damages; and

"Whereas, the President of the United States has also declared that 17 of 58 counties in this Commonwealth affected by flooding are eligible for Federal public disaster assistance on account of the flooding; and

"Whereas, the cost of responding to the Blizzard of 1996 left many municipalities without sufficient resources to react to and recover from severe flooding which resulted when melting snow and ice combined with heavy rain across this Commonwealth; and

"Whereas, the Federal Government has yet to acknowledge that the Blizzard of 1996 and the resulting flooding were related events that combined to cause a single major disaster; and

"Whereas, failure to treat the blizzard and flooding as one major disaster will result in undue hardship; and

"Whereas, failure to include the 41 additional counties among those declared eligible for Federal public disaster assistance will result in the lack of sufficient funds to return many communities in this Commonwealth to an acceptable level of public health and safety; and

"Whereas, the threat of additional snow and rain continues to present serious risk to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this Commonwealth; and

"Whereas, the Commonwealth and its citizens, businesses and municipalities are in need of immediate and comprehensive financial assistance to recover from the combined effects of snow, ice and flooding that resulted from the Blizzard of 1996; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Senate join with the Governor in respectfully petitioning the President of the United States to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to:

"(1) acknowledge that the Blizzard of 1996 and resulting flooding were related events that combined to cause a single major disaster;

"(2) declare 41 additional counties eligible to receive Federal public disaster assistance as a result of that disaster; and

"(3) expedite the process of providing and prioritizing disaster assistance; and be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for immediate action; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania."

POM-506. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

"ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 41"

"Whereas, it is necessary for the United States to seize the opportunities presented

by commercial space activity and, for the benefit of all Americans, regain the position of leadership in this highly competitive, multi-billion dollar international market; and

"Whereas, investment in commercial space activity will lead to the creation of jobs, the expansion of economic opportunity, and the continuance of American world-leadership; and

"Whereas, it is important to assess where America stands in a rapidly expanding world marketplace and the direction in which America needs to proceed in order to compete in that marketplace; and

"Whereas, the United States was once the world leader in the provision of commercial space launch services and has, over the past few years, ceded this leadership to the European Space Agency, which now controls over 60 percent of this booming industry; and

"Whereas, in the newly emerging low-earth orbit satellite market, the area where California has the best opportunity to lead, the Chinese have taken the inside track, assisted in part by the favorable trade policies of the present federal administration; and

"Whereas, California is uniquely well-placed to serve as one of the leading commercial spaceport locations in the nation; and

"Whereas, enactment of a national spaceport program will put the United States in a stronger position to compete in the commercial space activity industry because it will enable this nation to fill in the missing piece of the commercial space activity circle, launch facilities; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby declares its support for the enactment of a national spaceport program; and be it further

"Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States."

POM-507. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

"HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4014"

"Whereas, Washington's economy depends heavily on international trade, shipbuilding, seafaring, and tourism; and

"Whereas, the United States merchant marine continues to play a vital role in meeting the economic, military defense, and international aid objectives of our nation; and

"Whereas, the cruise ship industry has grown on average 9.3 percent annually since 1980 and is expected to double by the year 2000; and

"Whereas, the cruise ship trade, which now features Alaska, could grow even faster if it also featured Washington state; and

"Whereas, the cruise ship industry could potentially provide an additional one hundred million dollars to the Washington state economy if a United States coastwise cruise ship trade were established, with United States vessels transporting passengers between Washington state and other states, such as Alaska; and

"Whereas, representatives from United States ports, labor organizations, government agencies, and the maritime industry have met to develop an agreement on the successful advancement of a United States coastwise cruise ship trade; and

"Whereas, the United States Congress has been considering legislation that provides financial incentives and operating provisions

to effectively establish a United States coastwise cruise ship trade;

"Now, therefore, your memorialists respectfully pray that the United States Congress and President William J. Clinton establish a United States cruise ship industry, thereby developing a United States cruise ship registry, United States jobs, and a United States coastwise cruise ship trade, be it

"Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington."

POM-508. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

"SENATE RESOLUTION 1996-8695

"Whereas, tourism is of vital economic and cultural importance to the states and provinces of the Pacific Northwest comprised of Washington, Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon; and

"Whereas, the State and Provincial governments of the Pacific Northwest are members of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, a nonprofit public-private partnership established to promote regional economic cooperation; and

"Whereas, the States and Provinces of the Pacific Northwest Region expend in excess of \$50 million per year to promote the tourism industry and attract millions of tourists from throughout North America and the World; and

"Whereas, the tourism industry constitutes billions of dollars in economic activity for the States and Provinces of the Pacific Northwest Region; and

"Whereas, the States and Provinces of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region have undertaken numerous collaborative and innovative tourism initiatives that have been successful in promoting tourism in the region and have laid the ground work for ongoing cooperative tourism development efforts; and

"Whereas, current proposals before Congress to establish a National Tourism Board and a National Tourism Organization to develop a national travel and tourism strategy to promote tourism in the United States is of considerable importance to the States of the Pacific Northwest; and

"Whereas, participation on the National Tourism Board and the National Tourism Organization is of vital interest and importance to the States of the Pacific Northwest; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, that the Senate of the state of Washington respectfully request that a public and a private sector representative of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region be appointed to the National Tourism Board and the National Tourism Organization respectively; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington."

POM-509. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

"ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 39

"Whereas, the Clinton Administration has proposed to end the United States Army Corps of Engineers' involvement in flood control projects in this state; and

"Whereas, the flooding that arose from the March storms resulted in catastrophic damages to lives and property, including statewide agricultural losses of \$363,700,000, following \$97,000,000 in losses in January; and

"Whereas, the recent storms illustrate the need to maintain the proactive and cooperative efforts of the federal government and the state to anticipate flood control needs; and

"Whereas, the citizens of the state are calling upon the federal government to continue the 80-year presence of the United States Army Corps of Engineers in this state, and allow the corps to continue working successfully with state and local officials in preparing and implementing flood control projects and policies; and

"Whereas, the federal proposal to withdraw the United States Army Corps of Engineers from active involvement in state flood control efforts, thus ending the working relationship between the federal government and the state regarding flood control, should be reviewed critically; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California recognizes the importance of preserving the existing partnership between the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the state in pursuing flood control projects, and respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to review and reevaluate the federal proposal to end the involvement of the United States Army Corps of Engineers in flood control projects in the state; and be it further

"Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States."

POM-510. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

"HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4043

"Whereas, the proposed conference mark for Mitchell Act funds is three and one-half million dollars less than the previous fiscal year; and

"Whereas, this proposed cut to Mitchell Act funds is in addition to cuts to this fund source over the past several years; and

"Whereas, the Mitchell Act was created to mitigate for the loss of naturally spawning salmon due to the federal power system developed on the Columbia River; and

"Whereas, a reduction in Mitchell Act funds will significantly reduce the quantity of hatchery-produced salmon produced in the Columbia River; and

"Whereas, reduced Mitchell Act funding will make it significantly more difficult to enter into an equitable treaty with Canada under the United States/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty and will result in increased levels of wild salmon being harvested by Canadian fishers; and

"Whereas, commercial fishing families already hard hit by the effects of adverse ocean conditions, endangered species act restrictions, and recent natural disasters will be dealt yet another blow if full Mitchell Act funding is not restored; and

"Whereas, local economies dependent on cash inflow from recreational fishing activity will also be severely impacted by the effects of reduced Mitchell Act funding; and

"Whereas, Federal funding for fish hatcheries on the Columbia River is of critical importance to the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho;

"Now, therefore, your Memorialists respectfully pray that full Mitchell Act funding of eighteen and one-half million dollars be restored, be it

"Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington."

POM-511. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Finance.

"ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 22

"Whereas, social security laws, with respect to the taxing of social security as income at the federal level, have not been changed since the additional law was passed in 1983; and

"Whereas, social security is still taxable if personal income is more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) if single, or thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000) if married; and

"Whereas, during that period of time, inflation has increased more than 35 percent, with no change in the limits of taxable income; and

"Whereas, on top of the initial tier of social security taxes, a federal law that imposes an additional higher social security tax was recently enacted whereby, under specified conditions, in the case of a single person earning thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000) and a married couple earning forty-four thousand dollars (\$44,000), 85 percent of social security benefits are added to taxable income without an upward shift in the first tier threshold of taxable income; and

"Whereas, senior income increases at a very low percentage but the amount of social security that is taxed is increasing each year; and

"Whereas, the people who are affected by this inflation are the people who can least afford it; and

"Whereas, those income limits, which include both social security and any tax-free income, no longer represent a fair amount of earnings to warrant tax on social security; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the Congress and the President to enact appropriate legislation which would provide that the two tier taxation of social security benefits be eliminated by allowing a single person to earn thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000) and a married couple to earn forty-four thousand dollars (\$44,000) before any portion of their social security income is taxed, and that those income limits be indexed to inflation; and be it further

"Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Chairpersons of the House and Senate Committees on Aging, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States."

POM-512. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Finance.

"ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 19

"RESOLUTION CHAPTER 78

"Whereas, section 405 of Title 42 of the United States Code mandates that states collect the social security account numbers of parents when birth certificates are issued; and

"Whereas, due to their common use as individual identifiers by both the public and

private sectors, social security account numbers are essential tools for enforcing child support obligations because many of the child support enforcement actions mandated by federal law cannot be successfully undertaken without the use of social security account numbers; and

"Whereas, California has made tremendous progress in collecting delinquent child support orders through use of the state's tax collection agency, the Franchise Tax Board, and by refusing to issue or renew licenses if an individual is delinquent in paying his or her child support; and

"Whereas, these are model child support enforcement programs that have been adopted in several other states; and

"Whereas, these programs will not continue to be successful without utilization of the obligor's social security account number; and

"Whereas, a further exception to federal law is needed for documents used to enforce child support orders, specifically, marriage certificates and family law court documents; and

"Whereas, in many cases, these documents represent the only real opportunity to obtain the social security account numbers of the petitioner and respondent; and

"Whereas, social security account numbers are not provided on the marriage certificate at the beginning of the marriage, nor on the dissolution court documents at the end of the marriage, or on documents relating to the establishment of paternity, and consequently, the gathering of this information is entirely dependent on voluntary cooperation of the petitioner and the respondent; and

"Whereas, as of December 31, 1994, there were 2,304,362 Title IV-D cases, of which 1,126,422 were cases in which either a parent of the assets of a parent had not yet been located; and

"Whereas, it is essential that federal law be amended to allow the inclusion of social security account numbers on applications for licenses and certificates of marriage and on family law court records, and that federal law be further clarified to permit the continued maintenance of social security account numbers on court and other public agency records where the numbers were collected prior to October 1, 1990, and to permit states to make the social security account numbers available to child support agencies for the exclusive purpose of child support enforcement in accordance with federal and state law; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to amend federal law (42 U.S.C.A. Sec. 405) to allow social security account numbers to be included on applications for licenses and certificates of marriage and on records related to petitions for dissolution of marriage, and to clarify that social security account numbers on court and other public agency records may be maintained if they were collected prior to October 1, 1990, and permit states to make the social security account numbers available to child support agencies for the exclusive purpose of child support enforcement in accordance with federal and state law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States."

POM-513. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Finance.

"ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 24

"Whereas, the ancient civilization of Assyria, located in Bet-Nahrain (Mesopotamia) in what is now modern day Iraq, was renowned for its art and culture; and

"Whereas, in the eighth century B.C. King Assurnasirpal II of Assyria built the palace at Nimrud which contained highly descriptive bas-relief sculptures; and

"Whereas, an Assyrian relief from the palace at Nimrud was recently purchased at auction for \$11.9 million by an anonymous buyer; and

"Whereas, Assyrians who are in diaspora throughout the world today are united in their vehement objection to the illicit sale and trafficking of Assyrian ancient antiquities and artifacts; and

"Whereas, the illicit sale and trafficking of ancient antiquities and artifacts is not limited to Assyrian artifacts but involves the cultural treasures of historical civilizations throughout the world, from the ancient temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, to Native American villages in the United States; and

"Whereas, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is seeking to establish an international code of ethics for art dealers and cultural professionals to help combat the rise in illicit trafficking of cultural antiquities and artifacts throughout the world; and

"Whereas, the illicit sale and purchase of cultural and antiquities and artifacts by personal art collectors diminishes their educational and aesthetic value, denigrates the history, art, legacy, and culture of the ancient civilizations that created those antiquities and artifacts, displays a lack of sensitivity toward the descendants of those civilizations, and demonstrates disrespect for the cultural heritage of all of humankind; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to take measures to halt the illicit sale and trafficking of cultural antiquities, including Assyrian artifacts, and to support the efforts of UNESCO to combat this serious problem; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States."

POM-514. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Finance.

"SENATE RESOLUTION No. 222

"Whereas, an excellent highway network is vitally important to Michigan's economic well-being. All of the components of the state's economy are closely tied to the quality of the roadways used in transporting goods, services, and people throughout Michigan; and

"Whereas, Michigan's ability to maintain our transportation infrastructure is seriously impaired by the current policies of the federal government with regard to the federal gas tax each individual and business pays with every gallon of gasoline purchased. This unfair system costs the state hundreds of millions of dollars each year. The result is an increasing problem with the conditions of our roads and bridges; and

"Whereas, the largest element of the overall gas tax is the federal gas tax, which represents 18.4 cents of each dollar of gasoline sold. Of all of the states required to forward taxes to the federal government each year,

Michigan ranks among the lowest in the ratio of gas tax revenues being returned to the citizens who paid the tax. In 1993, for example, \$733.7 million was paid to the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and only \$520.1 million was returned, a loss of \$213.6 million, a loss that sets Michigan at a distinct disadvantage when making road improvements. Considering the inequitable manner in which this money is reallocated to the states of the union, it is clear that Michigan is bearing an oppressive burden through this taxation, a development of the tax structure that must be changed; and

"Whereas, adding to Michigan's tremendous burden, during the years 1990-1995, our state contributed \$1.168 billion to federal deficit reduction, dollars that were initially collected to improve transportation routes in Michigan. This amount comprises approximately 20 percent of the total amount levied on Michigan citizens for the years 1990-1995. In addition, by 1999 Michigan's total contributions to deficit reduction are expected to total \$2.099 billion, an amount that would certainly enable us to better maintain our roads and highways; and

"Whereas, clearly, Michigan is at a great disadvantage with states that receive far higher returns on their gas tax dollars marked for road improvements. In effect, we are subsidizing transportation maintenance and projects elsewhere when improvements are so desperately needed in our own state; and

"Whereas, with the new approaches to budgetary matters in Washington and a renewed willingness to examine the true costs of all spending policies, the time is right to remedy this unjust situation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urgently and respectfully request the Congress of the United States to return to Michigan all of the revenue from the federal gas tax collected in Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Michigan congressional delegation with the request that each member review this issue and offer a formal response to this body, the Michigan State Senate."

POM-515. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Finance.

"SENATE RESOLUTION No. 223

"Whereas, the quality of Michigan roadways has a great deal to do with the state's competitiveness in attracting and retaining jobs for our citizens. Every individual and every business in Michigan is affected when Michigan roads suffer from insufficient maintenance. Finding the means to meet this financial challenge is of the utmost importance to both state and local policymakers as we prepare for the twenty-first century; and

"Whereas, the difficult task of providing excellence in transportation in Michigan is made far worse by some of the current practices of the federal government with regard to the allocation of money raised by the federal gas tax; and

"Whereas, the current practices of the federal government with regards to the allocation of dollars raised by the federal tax make it difficult for Michigan to improve and expand its transportation system. Of the states required to send money to the federal government, in accordance with the federal funding formula, Michigan sends significantly more money to Washington than it receives back. In 1993, for example, Michigan paid a total of \$733.7 million to the Federal

Highway Trust Fund, and only \$520.1 million was returned; and

"Whereas, in addition, even more money designated for return to Michigan, and several other states, is being withheld by federal transportation authorities. This money is critical to our transportation infrastructure and a vital component of the state's economic well-being.

"Whereas, the current budget debate offers an opportunity to reexamine this critical aspect of public spending. This examination should include immediately correcting the gross inequities in allocating the funds generated by the federal gas tax; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate, That we respectfully, but urgently, ask the Congress of the United States to release to the states, including Michigan, any federal road funding due under the gas tax formula but currently being held back by the federal government; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Michigan congressional delegation with the request that each member review this issue, offering a formal response to this body, the Michigan State Senate."

POM-516. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Finance.

"SENATE RESOLUTION 1996-8696

"Whereas, the Pacific Northwest Region comprising of Washington, Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta, Montana, Idaho, and Oregon contains numerous border crossings between the United States and Canada; and

"Whereas, cultural, social, and economic exchanges between the citizens, organizations, and businesses of the region have historically been and continue to be an integral part of the regions economic and cultural development; and

"Whereas, the historically close and constant ties between the two countries of Canada and the United States have been forged and maintained by continuous cultural exchanges ranging from fraternities, social, sports, and business clubs to name but a few; and

"Whereas, the rapid changes in global affairs require countries to renew and enhance their ties with neighboring states and countries; and

"Whereas, millions of individuals cross the borders of the Pacific Northwest per annum including numerous tourists expending billions of dollars in the United States and Canada; and

"Whereas, a border crossing fee as proposed by current federal legislation would adversely impact both the economy, culture, and quality of life for many of the regions' citizens; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Senate of the state of Washington opposes any proposal that would levy a fee on any individuals crossing the borders of the United States; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho, and the Secretary of the United States Customs and Immigration Department."

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. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1632. A bill to prohibit persons convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1633. A bill to provide for school bus safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 1634. A bill to amend the resolution establishing the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission to extend the service of certain members; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HELMS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LOTT, Mr. KYL, Mr. SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COATS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. MACK, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 1635. A bill to establish a United States policy for the deployment of a national missile defense system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1636. A bill to designate the United States Courthouse under construction at 1030 Southwest 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon, as the "Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse," and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to revise the tax rules on expatriation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself, Mr. GLENN, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. KERREY, Mr. BENNETT, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1638. A bill to promote peace and security in South Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. GRAMM):

S. 1639. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a demonstration project to provide the Department of Defense with reimbursement from the Medicare program for health care services provided to Medicare-eligible beneficiaries under TRICARE; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1632. A bill to prohibit persons convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

FIREARMS LEGISLATION

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that would prohibit individuals who have been convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms.

Under current Federal law, Mr. President, it is illegal for people convicted

of felonies to possess firearms. Yet many people who engage in serious spousal or child abuse ultimately are not charged with or convicted of felonies. At the end of the day, maybe following a plea bargain, they are convicted of misdemeanors. And these people are still free under Federal law to possess firearms.

This legislation will close this loophole, and will help keep guns out of the hands of people who have proven themselves to be violent and a threat to those closest to them. The legislation would add to the list of persons disqualified from owning or possessing a firearm individuals who have been convicted of any crime involving domestic violence, regardless of the length, term, or manner of punishment. This includes violent crimes committed by a spouse, former spouse, paramour, parent, guardian or similar individual.

Mr. President, although there is a growing awareness about the problem of domestic violence, in many places, even today, these outrageous acts are not taken as seriously as other forms of brutal behavior. Yet each year an estimated 2 million women are victimized by domestic violence. That is 10 times the number of women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. Of those 2 million women, nearly 6,000 die at the hands of men who at least at one time claimed to love them. About 70 percent of the time, those hands are holding a gun.

Mr. President, much of the killing and maiming associated with domestic violence could not happen but for the presence of a firearm. The New England Journal of Medicine reports that in households with a history of battering, a gun in the home increases the likelihood that a woman will be murdered fivefold. Often, the only difference between a battered woman and a dead woman is the presence of a gun.

Acts of domestic violence, by their nature, are especially dangerous and require special attention. These crimes involve people who have a history together, and who perhaps share a home or a child. These are not violent acts between strangers, and they do not arise from a chance meeting. Even after a split, the individuals involved often by necessity have a continuing relationship of some sort. The husbands, boyfriends, and former husbands who commit these crimes often have a record of violent and threatening behavior. And yet, frequently, these men are being permitted to possess firearms—with no legal restrictions.

The statistics and data are clear. Domestic violence, no matter how it is labeled, leads to more domestic violence. And guns in the hand of convicted spouse abusers lead to death.

To me, Mr. President, it is a simple proposition. Those guilty of acts of domestic violence should not be trusted to acquire or possess a gun. Period.