

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 581

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 581) to amend Public Law 104-208 to provide that the President may make funds appropriated for population planning and other population assistance available on March 1, 1997, subject to restrictions on assistance to foreign organizations that perform or actively promote abortions.

Mr. LOTT. I object to further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar pursuant to rule 14.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 581

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the bill that was just placed on the calendar is the so-called Smith-Oberstar U.N. population funding bill.

I now ask unanimous consent the Senate turn to H.R. 581 by the close of business on Thursday, February 27, and there be 30 minutes for debate, equally divided in the usual form, with no amendments in order, and that following the conclusion or yielding back of the time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of H.R. 581 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of the Democratic leadership, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 581. An act to amend Public Law 104-208 to provide that the President may make funds appropriated for population assistance available on March 1, 1997, subject to restrictions on assistance to foreign organizations that perform or actively promote abortions.

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-1104. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, the report on administration on aging pension counseling demonstration program; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1105. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to injury and illness survey, received on February 11, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1106. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to migratory bird hunting, (RIN1018-AD69) received on February 11, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1107. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem" (RIN2900-AH89) received on February 12, 1997; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1108. A communication from the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative Conservation Reserve Long-Term Policy, (RIN0560-AE95) received on February 12, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1109. A communication from the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to electric loans, (RIN0572-AB30) received on February 13, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1110. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of rule relative to tomatoes, received on February 14, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1111. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1112. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1113. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Vision 21: The Plan for 21st Century Laboratories and Test and Evaluation Centers of the Department of Defense"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1114. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to court-martial sentence enhancement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1115. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on purchases from foreign entities for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1116. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a property transfer report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1117. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to record-keeping, received on February 14, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1118. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Man-

agement Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to special flood hazard areas, (RIN3067-AC53) received on February 14, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1119. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to deposits in banks or trust companies, received on February 12, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1120. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1121. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule with respect to bank holding companies, received on February 20, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1122. A communication from the Secretary from the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Exemption of Investment in Certain Nonutility Companies"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1123. A communication from the Major General, Director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to nationwide permits, received on February 12, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1124. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Architectural Barriers Act for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1125. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to polar bear trophies, (RIN1018-AD04) received on February 13, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1126. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules including one rule relative to the Clean Air Act, (FRL-5688-7, 5689-2) received on February 12, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1127. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of one rule relative to approval and promulgation of air quality plans, (FRL-5690-4) received on February 14, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1128. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules including one rule relative to the Clean Air Act, (FRL-5688-2, 5689-6, 5690-9) received on February 14, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1129. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules including one rule relative to approval and promulgation of plans, (FRL-5680-3, 5688-5) received on February 19, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1131. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Status of the State Small Business Stationary Source Technical and Environmental Compliance Assistance Programs (SBTCP)"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1132. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to value engineering, (RIN2125-AD33) received on February 13, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1133. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 95-02; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1134. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning direct spending or receipts legislation within five days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-1135. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a budget request and justification for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1136. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to natural gas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1137. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices" received on February 19, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1138. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on U.S. contributions to international organizations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1139. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1140. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on emergy communications during fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1141. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule concerning iron-containing supplements and drugs received on February 18, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1142. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the notice of final funding priorities received on February 18, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Services.

EC-1143. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the justification of budget estimates for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Services.

EC-1144. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Technical Amendments of Rules Relating to Labor-Management Programs" (RIN2125-AB16) received on February 19, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1145. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, the annual report relative to fee for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1146. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals dated February 1, 1997; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Finance, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

Special Report entitled "Report on Legislative Activities of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources During the 104th Congress" (Rept. No. 105-5).

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. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ROBB):

S. 342. A bill to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. 343. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Mongolia; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 344. A bill to require the relocation of a National Weather Service radar tower which is on Sulphur Mountain near Ojai, California; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROBB:

S. 345. A bill to amend chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the payment to Federal employees of meal expenses required while serving on a security detail in the protection of a Federal officer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 346. A bill to assure fairness and assistance to patients and health care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. REID, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FORD, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 347. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 100 Alabama Street NW, in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Sam Nunn Federal Center"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ROBB):

S. 342. A bill to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES LEGISLATION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise as chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs to introduce S. 342, a bill to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices located in the United States. I am pleased to be joined by Senator ROBB as an original cosponsor.

The Hong Kong Government maintains Economic and Trade Offices in several countries to represent the Colony's economic and trade interests abroad; there are three such Offices in the United States—San Francisco, New York, and Washington. As my colleagues are aware, at midnight on June 30, 1997, Hong Kong will revert to the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region [HKSAR]. The HKSAR will purportedly, under agreements reached between the PRC and the United Kingdom, enjoy a high degree of autonomy from the central government in Beijing except in the areas of foreign policy and defense. That autonomy includes the right to maintain economic and trade ties with third countries independent of Beijing.

The Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 provided, *inter alia*, that the United States should invite Hong Kong to maintain its Economic and Trade Offices after June 30. The reasoning was not only to continue to facilitate our trade relationship with our ninth biggest trading partner; in addition, the move was meant to underscore our commitment to an autonomous Hong Kong after 1997.

This bill would extend to these offices and employees the provisions of the International Organizations Immunities Act and the Agreement on State and local Taxation of Foreign Employees of Public International Organizations, thereby assuring that these offices are treated in the same manner as others similarly situated—such as the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Offices, Taiwan's representative in the United States.

Identical legislation passed the Senate unanimously late last year, but was not considered by the House before we adjourned sine die. Because the June deadline looms so near, I hope that we can move this bill quickly and without amendment through both Houses before the July 1 reversion of Hong Kong to China's jurisdiction.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ROBB):

S. 343. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Mongolia; to the Committee on Finance.

MONGOLIA MFN LEGISLATION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise as chairman of the Subcommittee on East