

S. 29

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 29, a bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

S. 30

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to increase the unified estate and gift tax credit to exempt small businesses and farmers from inheritance taxes.

S. 31

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 31, a bill to phase out and repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

S. 104

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI] and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] were added as cosponsors of S. 104, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

S. 121

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the names of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] and the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] were added as cosponsors of S. 121, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for 501(c)(3) bonds a tax treatment similar to governmental bonds, and for other purposes.

S. 127

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU] was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 221

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 221, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to require the Commissioner of Social Security to submit specific legislative recommendations to ensure the solvency of the social security trust funds.

S. 251

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 251, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow farmers to income average over 2 years.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] and the Senator from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS] were added as cosponsors of S. 257, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to improve the act, and for other purposes.

S. 261

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs.

HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 261, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 263

At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 263, a bill to prohibit the import, export, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, acquisition, and receipt of bear viscera or products that contain or claim to contain bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 278

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the names of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] and the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] were added as cosponsors of S. 278, a bill to guarantee the right of all active duty military personnel, merchant mariners, and their dependents to vote in Federal, State, and local elections.

S. 294

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], and the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] were added as cosponsors of S. 294, a bill to amend chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, to establish Federal penalties for the killing or attempted killing of a law enforcement officer of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] and the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA] were added as cosponsors of S. 305, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions through his entertainment career and humanitarian activities, and for other purposes.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to require that the Federal Government procure from the private sector the goods and services necessary for the operations and management of certain Government agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] and the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] were added as cosponsors of S. 317, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geographic Mapping Act of 1992.

S. 318

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 318, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to require automatic cancellation and notice of cancellation rights

with respect to private mortgage insurance which is required by a creditor as a condition for entering into a residential mortgage transaction, and for other purposes.

S. 325

At the request of Mr. BUMPERS, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] was added as a cosponsor of S. 325, a bill to repeal the percentage depletion allowance for certain hardrock mines.

S. 326

At the request of Mr. BUMPERS, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to provide for the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. BUMPERS, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to ensure that Federal taxpayers receive a fair return for the extraction of locatable minerals on public domain lands, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

GRAHAM AMENDMENT NO. 7

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 1, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced budget; as follows:

On page 2, line 17, strike "held by the public".

REID AMENDMENT NO. 8

Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 1, supra; as follows:

On page 3, line 19, after the proposed insert "The receipts (including attributable interest) and outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds (as and if modified to preserve the solvency of the Funds) used to provide old age, survivors, and disabilities benefits shall not be counted as receipts or outlays for purposes of this article."

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will hold a full committee hearing on Tuesday, February 25, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A. The purpose of the hearing will be to discuss the impact of estate taxes on farmers.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will hold a full committee hearing on Wednesday, February 26, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A. The purpose of the hearing will be to discuss the impact of capital gains taxes on farmers.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that an Executive Session of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 1997, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The following are on the agenda to be considered.

1. S. 295, Teamwork for Employees and Managers [TEAM] Act.
 2. S. 4, The Family Friendly Workplace Act.
 3. Presidential nominations.
- For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will meet to conduct an oversight hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. on the President's budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA] and Indian Health Service [IHS]. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, February 27, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. to approve the letter to the Committee on the Budget concerning the Committee's budget views and estimates for fiscal year 1998 for Indian programs. The meeting will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Thursday, February 27, 1997, 10 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is Reauthorization of Higher Education Act. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will hold a full committee hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 1997, at 10

a.m. in SD-G50. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive testimony regarding the school lunch and school breakfast programs.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will hold a full committee hearing on Wednesday, March 5, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A. The purpose of the hearing will be to review the U.S. Department of Agriculture's business plan and reorganization management.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIP TO SINGAPORE

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to report to the Senate on an official trip I took with a House Ways and Means Committee delegation in December 1996 to Hong Kong, Beijing, and Singapore. I was privileged to be the only United States Senator to serve as an official delegate to the first ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization.

The WTO was formed by the Uruguay Round Agreement, ratified by Congress in 1994, and is the successor to the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade. It serves as a forum for multilateral trade negotiations and a dispute settlement body. The first ministerial was called to measure progress on the implementation of Uruguay round commitments and seek further liberalization in selected areas of trade. Although I discuss the various meetings of the delegation in Hong Kong and Beijing, this report will focus on our meetings in Singapore.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1996

Upon arriving in Hong Kong, the delegation met with U.S. Consul General Richard Boucher and several Hong Kong business and government officials. The primary topic of discussion was Hong Kong's transition to Chinese control on July 1, 1997.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1996

On Saturday, the delegation met with representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong. The upcoming transition was again discussed as was the annual debate in the Congress on China's most-favored-nation status.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1996

On the first day of the ministerial, the delegation was briefed by Acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Reed Hunt. Ms. Barshefsky stressed the importance of completing negotiations on the Information Technology Agreement while in Singapore. She believed that an agreement was imminent but sought our support when discussing the ITA with other countries, delegations.

The delegation asked Ms. Barshefsky about the negotiations to bring China

into the WTO. I stressed the need for China to open its markets for U.S. agricultural products and to reduce the authority of its state trading enterprises. Ms. Barshefsky stressed three points relating to China's entry into the WTO. First, China must remedy its bilateral problems with the United States, especially on agriculture and intellectual property rights. China must increase market access to U.S. agricultural exports. Finally, China must abide by the decisions and policies of a rules-based system, the WTO.

Mr. Hunt briefed the delegation on the telecommunications negotiations. Mr. Hunt said that the focus in these talks will be on deregulation in order to open the global communications industry to foreign competition. Since the United States has one of the most open markets, our companies have the most to gain by liberalizing trade in this area.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 1996

On Tuesday morning, I broke from the delegation for breakfast with Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger and the Administrator of the Foreign Agriculture Service, Gus Schumacher, both with the United States Department of Agriculture. We discussed our current bilateral trade disputes with the European Union, primarily with Bt corn and the veterinary equivalency standards.

At the time, the EU was deciding whether to accept Bt corn, a genetically modified organism, exported from the U.S. Failure to accept this product would have jeopardized all of our corn exports to Europe. Subsequent to the Singapore meeting, the EU decided to allow Bt corn into its markets.

The second issue, unfortunately, has yet to be resolved. The EU has failed to certify most U.S. meat packing plants for export to Europe. This failure will jeopardize current exports, such as pet food, as well as potential sales of beef and pork. The issue was to be resolved in December but a decision has now been delayed until April.

Because of the EU's actions, I have introduced a bill with the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, to address the situation. S. 220 requires the U.S. Trade Representative to determine whether the European Union's action violates any trade agreements, including the 1992 meat agreement and the sanitary/phytosanitary provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreement. If agreements have been breached, USTR is required to take some action, which could include unilateral sanctions. I urge the European Union to remedy this situation before sanctions are necessary.

I rejoined the delegation to meet with Singapore Minister of Trade and Industry Yeo Cheow Tong. The delegation thanked the minister for his nation's hospitality and leadership at the ministerial. We impressed upon him the need to consummate the Information Technology Agreement in order to make the ministerial a success. I urged Minister Yeo, in his leadership role at