

H.R. 497. An act to repeal the Federal charter of Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc., and for other purposes.

H.R. 624. An act to amend the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act of 1993 to clarify certain requirements and to improve the flow of interstate commerce.

H.R. 668. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the Airport and Airway Trust Fund excise taxes, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 499. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service under construction at 7411 Barlite Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Frank M. Tejeda Post Office Building."

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 6:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to the provisions of 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. MCCREY.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 624. An act to amend the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act of 1993 to clarify certain requirements and to improve the flow of interstate commerce; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 668. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the Airport and airway trust fund excise tax, 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-33. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4006

Whereas, more than three thousand eight hundred women in Washington will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year; and

Whereas, nearly one thousand women in Washington lost their lives to breast cancer in 1996; and

Whereas, women who die from breast cancer lose an average of twenty years of their life; and

Whereas, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women; and

Whereas, the medical treatment costs of breast cancer nation-wide total over six billion dollars annually; and

Whereas, underfunded research into the causes of breast cancer have not yet determined a cause, prevention, or cure for the disease; and

Whereas, research into the cause and cure for all cancers totals only one-tenth of one percent of the federal budget; and

Whereas, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington honor and support the American Cancer Society's "Campaign 2.6" signature drive: Now, therefore, your Memorialists respectfully pray that the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress recommit to eradicating breast cancer by investing two billion six million dollars in breast cancer research between now and January 1, 2000, and mandate that cancer activists be among those who decide how that money is appropriated; be it

Resolved, That Copies of the Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Patty Murray, United States Senator; the Honorable Linda Smith, United States Representative; John Seffrin of the American Cancer Society National Home Office; Sherry Bailey of the American Cancer Society National Home Office; Fran Visco of the National Breast Cancer Coalition; Willie Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Western Pacific Division of the American Cancer Society; Ann Marie Pomerinke, Chief Executive Officer, Western Pacific Division of the American Cancer Society; Theresa Miller of the Breast Cancer Task Force of the Western Pacific Division of the American Cancer Society; Deb Schiro of the division office of the Western Pacific Division of the American Cancer Society; 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-34. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Armed Services.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Base Closure and Realignment Commission was created pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 to study the viability of United States military installations and to issue reports regarding the closure and realignment of select installations; and

Whereas, the commission thoroughly reviewed data and input from all interested parties, including the Department of Defense, which recommended Tobyhanna Army Depot for increased mission responsibility; and

Whereas, in its final deliberations, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission concurred with the efficiency and productivity analyses of the Tobyhanna Army Depot work force; and

Whereas, the commission issued a report to the President of the United States on July 1, 1995, which recommended the transfer of the ground communications-electronics workload from the Sacramento Air Logistics Center, California, to the Tobyhanna Army Depot; and

Whereas, in recommending that the McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento, California, should be closed, the commission directed that its ground communications-electronics workload transfer to Tobyhanna Army Depot; and

Whereas, this recommendation and others included in the commission's 1995 report were accepted by the President, submitted to the Congress of the United States and signed

as the Base Closure and Realignment Report of 1995 on July 13, 1995; and

Whereas, the commission's report indicated that the Tobyhanna Army Depot can perform the ground communications-electronics workload just as efficiently and more cost effective than the Sacramento Air Logistics Center; and

Whereas, the Tobyhanna Army Depot has proven to be one of the United States' most cost-effective installations; and

Whereas, the transfer of the ground communications-electronics workload to the Tobyhanna Army Depot would involve the movement of approximately 900 positions to the Tobyhanna Army Depot; and

Whereas, these 900 positions constitute a significant staff complement for the Tobyhanna Army Depot, although these 900 positions represent less than 10% of the total complement based at the Sacramento Air Logistics Center; and

Whereas, the Tobyhanna Army Depot is northeastern Pennsylvania's largest employer, and the transfer of these 900 positions would represent an important influx to the regional economy; and

Whereas, the Tobyhanna Army Depot has the capacity, capability and skills necessary to immediately perform a significant portion of the Sacramento Air Logistics Center's ground communications-electronics workload; and

Whereas, the Base Closure and Realignment Report of 1995 required that the President of the United States initiative workload transfers no later than July 13, 1997, and complete those transfers no later than July 13, 2001; and

Whereas, at the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense, the President of the United States of America accepted these decisions; and

Whereas, the transfer of the 900 ground communications-electronics positions to Tobyhanna Army Depot has not been initiated, even though this transfer was approved by the President of the United States and shown to be in the interests of cost-effectiveness and military efficiency; and

Whereas, it is apparent that leaders in the state of California seek to delay or prevent the movement of the ground communications-electronics workload to Tobyhanna; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been severely impacted by the Department of Defense base closure process in each round from 1988 to 1996 and has not sought special protection from these impacts; and

Whereas, these efforts by the elected officials of California will violate the intention of the 1995 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, negate annual savings of \$160 million and impact the readiness of the nation's armed forces; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President of the United States to effect the immediate transfer of the ground communications-electronics workload from the Sacramento Air Logistics Center to the Tobyhanna Army Depot; and be it further

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

POM-35. A resolution adopted by the Puer Rican Bar Association Board of Directors relative to opposition to the Death Penalty; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-36. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislative of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Whereas, the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) is the nation's most advanced test reactor; and

Whereas, numerous independent studies have suggested that the facility could one day be used to produce cancer-curing medical isotopes; and

Whereas, the facility has also been considered by the Department of Energy (DOE) for short-term production of tritium for our nation's defense needs; and

Whereas, utilizing the FFTF for this purpose could help postpone construction of more expensive options for tritium production, thus freeing federal dollars for environmental purposes during DOE's "Ten Year Cleanup Plan"; and

Whereas, this would protect Hanford clean up from budget pressures during this time frame and ensure that the federal government fulfills its responsibilities under the Tri-Party Agreement; and

Whereas, private sector involvement in the FFTF project could further reduce federal expenditures needed for tritium production; and

Whereas, DOE and President William J. Clinton have announced their decision to keep the FFTF on standby for potential use for medical and tritium purposes; and

Whereas, this decision could lead to the development of a major cancer treatment center in Washington State; and

Whereas, sixty-nine nationally recognized cancer researchers have expressed their strong support for preserving the FFTF, and have argued that they would find it "unconscionable to shut down the FFTF without a full review of its potential for future operation, including isotope production": Now, therefore,

Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United States Congress and executive agencies approve and endorse the plan to fully and fairly evaluate the FFTF for use in meeting critical national needs, and urge that the long-term best interests of clean-up activities at Hanford and cancer research be given top priority by DOE in arriving at its decision, be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, 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-37. A petition from the citizens of the State of California relative to violence, abuse, and the women's citizenship; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. BOND (for himself and Mr. ASHCROFT):

S. 368. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for human cloning research; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CHAFFEE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DODD, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. GLENN, and Mr. REED):

S. 369. A bill to amend section 1128B of the Social Security Act to repeal the criminal penalty for fraudulent disposition of assets in order to obtain medicaid benefits added by

section 217 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 370. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased medicare reimbursement for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 371. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased medicare reimbursement for physician assistants, to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 372. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a 5-year reinstatement of the medicare-dependent, small, rural hospital payment provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 373. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and part 7 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish standards for protection of consumers in managed care plans and other health plans; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ROBB:

S. 374. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for hospital care and medical services under chapter 17 of that title to veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FORD, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 375. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. BURNS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 376. A bill to affirm the rights of Americans to use and sell encryption products, to establish privacy standards for voluntary key recovery encryption systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. GRAMS, and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 377. A bill to promote electronic commerce by facilitating the use of strong encryption, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 378. A bill to provide additional funding for the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate; read the first time.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 379. A bill entitled the "Native Alaskan Subsistence Whaling Provision"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 380. A bill to prohibit foreign nationals admitted to the United States under a non-immigrant visa from possessing a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. FRIST, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KERREY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 381. A bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. REID):

S.J. Res. 18. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections; read twice and placed on the calendar.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Mr. ASHCROFT):

S. 368. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for human cloning research; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

RESEARCH LEGISLATION

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce a measure on behalf of myself, Senator ASHCROFT, and Senator BYRD which would prohibit permanently the use of Federal funds for human cloning research. I am sure most Americans by now have heard about the successful cloning of Dolly, the sheep, by Scottish scientists. Many people are now asking can similar techniques be used to clone a human being? Something that was once thought to be only science fiction is now close to being a reality.

With the legislation I introduce today, I intend to make sure that human cloning stays within the realm of science fiction and does not become a reality. The bill that I am introducing with my colleagues today will place a permanent ban on Federal funding for human cloning or human cloning research. We must send a clear signal: Human cloning is something we cannot and should not tolerate. This type of research on humans is morally reprehensible. We should not be creating human beings for spare parts or as replacements. Moreover, a National Institutes of Health human embryo panel noted, "allowing society to create genetically identical persons would devalue human life by undermining the individuality of human beings."

In a September 1994 report of the Human Embryo Research Panel, the heading is, "Research Considered Unacceptable for Federal Funding." It said: