

EC-1397. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of fifteen rules including one rule relative to federal acquisition, received on March 11, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1398. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of certification and relative justifications; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1399. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Procedure 97-21, received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1400. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Ruling 97-15, received on March 11, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1401. 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 March 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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to the Committee on Armed Services, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to the Committee on Finance, to the Committee on Foreign Relations, to the Committee on Governmental Affairs and to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1402. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 11, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1403. A communication from the Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska" received on March 11, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1404. A communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Summer Flounder Fishery" (RIN0648-XX76AI65) received on March 11, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1405. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment For the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1406. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1407. A communication from the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-41. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, in spite of the constitutional recognition of the authority of states, Congress, using its authority to regulate commerce among the states, has repeatedly preempted state laws. Congressional actions affecting state laws involve many issues, including health, transportation, communications, banking, environment, and civil justice. These actions have reduced the states' ability to respond to local needs; and

Whereas, more than half of all federal laws preempting states have been enacted by Congress since 1969. This trend has intensified an erosion of state power that leaves an essential part of our constitutional structure—federalism—standing precariously; and

Whereas, the United States Constitution anticipates that our American federalism will allow differences among state laws. This structure expects people to seek change through their own state legislative bodies without federal legislators from other states imposing national laws; and

Whereas, the relationship between the states and the federal government established in the "Supreme Law of the Land" is predicated on the states having genuine authority and powers not usurped at the federal level; and

Whereas, less federal preemption means states can act as laboratories for democracy and act on novel social and economic policies without risk to the entire nation; and

Whereas, during the 104th Congress, our federal lawmakers considered legislation to provide specific mechanisms to help protect the authority of the states. This legislation, known as "The Tenth Amendment Enforcement Act of 1996," would have set in place mechanisms for all three branches of the federal government to follow. For example, the legislative branch would be required to include a statement of constitutional authority and an expression of intent. The executive branch agencies would be curbed from exceeding their authority. The judicial branch would defer to state laws where Congress is not clear in its intent to preempt; and

Whereas, legislation like the Tenth Amendment Enforcement Act of 1996 addresses fundamental issues of federalism and is timely and needed. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide for the enforcement of the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; 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 the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

Adopted by the Senate, February 26, 1997.

POM-42. A Joint Resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, the annual federal budget has not been balanced since 1969, and the federal public debt is now more than five trillion dollars or twenty thousand dollars for every man, woman, and child in America; and

Whereas, continued deficit spending demonstrates an unwillingness or inability of both the federal executive and legislative branches to spend no more than available revenues; and

Whereas, fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is lowering our standard of living, destroying jobs, and endangering economic opportunity now and for the next generation; and

Whereas, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow raises questions about fundamental principles and responsibilities of government, with potentially profound consequences for the nation and its People, making it an appropriate subject for limitation by the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove constitutional amendments with the People, as represented by their elected State Legislatures; and opposition by a small minority repeatedly has thwarted the will of the People that a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution should be submitted to the States for ratification; and

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Wyoming prefers that a constitutional convention not be called to address this issue and the implementation of this resolution by Congress will effectively eliminate the necessity for such a convention: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming, That the Congress of the United States expeditiously pass, and propose to the Legislatures of the several States for ratification, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring in the absence of a national emergency that the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year; be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, each Member of the Wyoming Congressional Delegation, and the Secretary of State and the presiding officers of both Houses of the Legislatures of each of the other States in the Union.

POM-43. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

Whereas, the continuing practice of annual budget deficits has severely hampered our nation's economy. In the years since Congress and the President last provided a balanced federal budget in 1969, our country's debt has skyrocketed. As a result, we must direct badly needed tax dollars to paying interest on our debt instead of utilizing tax dollars to their fullest capability and, ultimately, reducing the tax burden facing our citizens and businesses; and

Whereas, there are a host of benefits to our country to be gained from a balanced budget constitutional amendment. With less demand on credit, interest rates would decline. This would enable individuals to attain worthwhile goals for themselves and their families. Money for homes, cars, and higher education would be more readily available. With the added potential for investment, businesses could expand to provide more and better jobs. Many of the budgetary questions that cloud our future would be answered as we channel funds to far more rewarding endeavors than paying interest on a continual escalation of debt; and

Whereas, the American people, who are accustomed to their state and local governments throughout almost the entire country having to balance their annual budgets, are in favor of similar responsibility in the federal government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to pass and submit to the states for ratification a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced federal budget with Social Security and Medicare removed from consideration so long as the funds in those programs are guaranteed and are not used to offset, or otherwise be made to serve as collateral for, debt expenditure elsewhere in the federal budget; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge that the proposed balanced budget amendment provide for line item veto for cutting appropriations as measures to achieve a balanced budget; 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 the members of the Michigan congressional delegation. Adopted by the Senate, February 27, 1997.

POM-44. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1006

Whereas, the expenditures for election campaigns for Congress have been rising each election year; and

Whereas, the State of South Dakota just experienced an election campaign for the position of United States Senator where the candidates spent eight million dollars on campaign expenses and bombarded our citizens with campaign advertisements for a year prior to the election; and

Whereas, despite the huge cost of this election in South Dakota, it is a mere drop in the bucket when compared to similar elections in more heavily populated states; and

Whereas, the increasing cost of Congressional elections has led to a never-ending solicitation by candidates for contributions from businesses, political action committees, and individuals; and

Whereas, these high campaign expenditures and the corresponding need for campaign contributions has given the voters of the State of South Dakota and the nation the perception that campaign contributions buy influence in Congress; and

Whereas, these expenditures and contributions tarnish the image of representative government and fuel voter apathy; and

Whereas, the Congress must pass meaningful election finance campaign reform to help restore voter confidence in our federal election process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-Second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, That the Congress of the United States pass election campaign finance reform which would call for campaign expenditure limits on each candidate for the United States House of Representatives and on each candidate for the United States Senate; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States should also provide in such legislation for campaign limits on in-kind contributions for each candidate for the United States House of Representatives and for each candidate for the United States Senate; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, and each Member of the South Dakota Congressional Delegation.

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. DODD:

S. 426. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to adjust the needs analysis to protect more of a student's earnings; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

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

S. 427. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the deduction for lobbying expenses in connection with State legislation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 428. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to improve the safety of handguns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 429. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain cash rent farm landlords to deduct soil and water conservation expenditures; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 430. A bill to amend the Act of June 20, 1910, to protect the permanent trust funds of the State of New Mexico from erosion due to inflation and modify the basis on which distributions are made from those funds; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 431. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to divide the ninth judicial circuit of the United States into two circuits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. COATS):

S. 432. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the designation of renewal communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. COATS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 433. A bill to require Congress and the President to fulfill their Constitutional duty to take personal responsibility for Federal laws; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. BYRD):

S. 434. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to correct the treatment of tax-exempt financing of professional sports facilities.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD:

S. 426. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to adjust the needs analysis to protect more of a student's earnings; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE BETTER FINANCIAL AID FOR WORKING STUDENTS ACT OF 1997

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise here this morning to introduce a piece of legislation which I have entitled the

Better Financial Aid for Working Students Act of 1997. At the appropriate time here, Mr. President, I will send the bill to the desk and ask that it be referred to the appropriate committee. But let me take a few minutes, if I can, to explain what I am trying to do with this proposal.

This legislation is designed, Mr. President, to assist America's working students to cope with the growing financial burdens of a college education. One hardly even needs to use the words "growing financial burden." It is to state the obvious.

There is not a family in America that does not have children in school or going on to college or who have already been there that does not appreciate what a significant burden the cost of a higher education is in our country.

For the parents of college-aged children, of course, this is a trying time of year, not only for the parents, but for those who are anticipating going on to higher education. These parents and students are today anxiously awaiting the acceptance letters or rejection letters from our Nation's colleges and universities around the country.

However, for the vast majority of families, beyond waiting for an acceptance or rejection letter in March and April from institutions they have applied to, the biggest concern is not whether they are going to get into college or into a community college or into a university; the biggest question, the biggest challenge facing these families is: How are we going to pay for this? If they get in, how are we possibly going to finance this incredible burden that we see increasing all the time?

In fact, Mr. President, I think this week or maybe the past week one of our national magazines—I believe it was Time magazine—has a special issue out on the cost of higher education. It is their cover story. I commend them for it. I believe it was Time, I apologize if it was another periodical. But it is at an appropriate point with these acceptance and rejection letters coming to seniors in high school and others who have been out of school for some time but anxious to get back in.

So I am stating again the obvious. This is a time of some anxiety. But I would argue, the greatest anxiety is not "whether or not I'm going to be able to go on to a higher educational opportunity," but rather, "How am I possibly going to afford this? How are we going to afford this so our children or myself will be able to acquire the skills and educational levels that are going to be necessary for us to succeed or for my children to succeed in the future?"

That is why the letter they await, Mr. President, with the most anxiety, of course, is the financial aid letter. Working families understand as well as anyone that a college education has never been more important than it is today.

Thirty years ago, Mr. President, a high school diploma could get you a