

Whereas, the implementation of a democratic, multiparty government in Ethiopia should be a long-range foreign policy goal of the United States Government;

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

SECTION 1. That the Honorable House of Representatives continue to encourage the formation of democratic institutions, multiparty participation, progressive social change, and respect for fundamental human rights in Ethiopia, including freedom of association and expression.

SECTION 2. The President and the Congress of the United States should be encouraged to use every possible means at their command to examine the policy, that recognizes and evaluates the political conditions that exist in Ethiopia with a view to ensure the prevention of the shocking brutality of ethnic warfare elsewhere in Africa from spreading to Ethiopia.

SECTION 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Albert Gore, Vice President, Old Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, 2201 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520; His Excellency Berhane Gebre-Chrispof, Embassy of Ethiopia, 2134 Kalorama Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, 2428 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-1006; the Honorable Wendell H. Ford, 173A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, 361A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Ed Whitfield, 236 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Ron Lewis, 412 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Anne Northup, 1004 Longworth Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Jim Bunning, 2437 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Harold Rogers, 2468 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and the Honorable Scotty Baesler, 113 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 289. A bill to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at the corner of Superior Road and Huron Road in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "Carl B. Stokes United States Courthouse."

S. 347. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 100 Alabama Street NW, in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Sam Nunn Federal Center."

S. 478. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 475 Mulberry Street in Macon, Georgia, as the "William Augustus Bootle Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

S. 628. A bill to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at the corner of 7th Street and East Jackson Street in Brownsville, Texas, as the "Reynaldo G. Garza United States Courthouse."

S. 681. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Northeast First Avenue in

Miami, Florida, as the "David W. Dyer Federal Courthouse."

S. 715. A bill to redesignate the Dublin Federal Courthouse building located in Dublin, Georgia, as the "J. Roy Rowland Federal Courthouse."

S. 819. A bill to designate the United States courthouse at 200 South Washington Street in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Martin V.B. Bostetter, Jr. United States Courthouse."

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Michael J. Armstrong, of Colorado, to be an Associate Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

Brigadier General Robert Bernard Flowers, United States Army, to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, under the provisions of Section 2 of an Act of Congress, approved June 1879 (21 Stat. 37) (33 USC 642).

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed.)

By Mr. D'AMATO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

Jackie M. Clegg, of Utah, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2001.

James A. Harmon, of New York, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2001.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

## 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. JEFFORDS:

S. 830. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 831. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for congressional review of any rule promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service that increases Federal revenue, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 832. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deductibility of business meal expenses for individuals who are subject to Federal limitations on hours of service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GLENN, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 833. A bill to designate the Federal building courthouse at Public Square and Superior Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "Howard M. Metzenbaum United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 834. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure adequate research and education regarding the drug DES; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 835. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the treatment of effectively connected investment income of insurance companies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. ASHCROFT):

S. 836. A bill to offer small businesses certain protections from litigation excesses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 837. A bill to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms and to allow States to enter into compacts to recognize other States' concealed weapons permits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRYAN (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN):

S. 838. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to eliminate legal impediments to quotation in decimals for securities transactions in order to protect investors and to promote efficiency, competition, and capital formation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 839. A bill to improve teacher mastery and use of educational technology; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 840. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from tax gain on sale of a principal residence; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 841. A bill to authorize construction of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System in the State of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BREAU, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 842. A bill to provide for the immediate application of certain orders relating to the amendment, modification, suspension, or revocation of certificates under chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. MACK):

S. 843. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify certain rules relating to the taxation of United States business operating abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 844. A bill to amend the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 to extend the authorization of the Assassination Records Review Board until September 30, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 845. A bill to transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to conduct the census of agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 846. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to remove the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to license projects on fresh waters in the State of Hawaii; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. COVERDELL, and Mr. GREGG):

S. 847. A bill to provide scholarship assistance for District of Columbia elementary and secondary school students; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 848. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, through the Health Care Financing Administration, to expand and strengthen the demonstration project known as the Medicare telemedicine demonstration program; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. Res. 96. A resolution proclaiming the week of March 15 through March 21, 1998, as "National Safe Place Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 97. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the month of June 1997, the fiftieth anniversary of the Marshall Plan, as George C. Marshall month, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. MACK, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. Con. Res. 31. A concurrent resolution concerning the Palestinian Authority and the sale of land to Israelis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JEFFORDS:

S. 830. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION MODERNIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1997

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to modernize the Food and Drug Administra-

tion [FDA] and reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act for 5 years. This legislation comes as result of over 3 years of consideration by the Congress on steps that could be taken by the agency that would contribute to its mandate to protect the American public while ensuring that life-saving products could be made more readily available.

FDA acknowledges that its mandate also requires it to regulate over one-third of our Nation's products. Within its purview the FDA regulates virtually all of the food and all of the cosmetics, medical devices, and drugs made available to our citizens. I believe, and several members of the Labor Committee share my belief, that in an organization the size of FDA there is always room for improvement and modernization. Our objective, which this legislation achieves, was identify areas where improvements could be made that will strengthen the agency's ability to approve safe and effective products more expeditiously.

Last year, both the House and the Senate held numerous and extensive hearings on countless proposals for modernizing and reforming the FDA. The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee successfully reported a bipartisan bill that sought to accomplish many of those reforms. But last year, acrimonious issues remained, time ran out and the bill did not receive floor consideration. This year I have resolved to move forward. I have been committed to addressing last year's most controversial issues. I believe that the legislation I am introducing today addresses virtually all of objections raised last year both in process and in content. This is a better bill and I believe that upon examination, my colleagues will agree that it accomplishes its goal.

I want to comment a moment on the open, consensus-building process we followed in developing this legislation. The Labor Committee held two hearings. During the first the committee received testimony from the principal FDA Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Michael Friedman, and all of the FDA Center Directors. The second hearing included representatives from patient and consumer coalitions and from the food, drug, and medical device sectors regulated by the FDA. Committee members learned from the agency of the administrative reforms and the progress it has already undertaken, areas that remain a challenge, and those areas that require legislative authority to change. The committee listened to consumers' concerns with provisions that were considered last year that they felt would weaken the FDA's ability to protect the public health. Finally, the committee learned of the ongoing and needless delays and frustrations facing health care and consumer product sectors of our economy in working with the FDA. The committee learned of the frustrated attempts to work through the bureaucratic lab-

yrinth of needless regulatory delays. Delays that prohibited people from getting access to vitally needed, life saving medical treatments, drugs, and devices.

Since the finish of the committee's hearings we have engaged in an open, collaborative process that has given voice to each party wishing to be heard. For many of these meetings it is worth noting that the agency was a full, cooperating participant and we would not have been able to make the progress made without FDA's collaboration. Several meetings, essentially roundtable discussions, have occurred with bipartisan committee staff, the FDA, and each of the several sectors regulated by the agency. These meetings have given all the participants an opportunity to discuss problems and potential solutions and have been the basis for the consensus bill I am introducing today. Finally, committee staff have had numerous meetings to discuss key provisions in the bill with a wide range of consumer groups including, among others, the Patient Coalition, Public Citizen, the Centers for Science in the Public Interest, the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and the National Organization for Rare Diseases. It should be clear that no person or group was excluded from this deliberative process.

Let me turn to the content of this measure and the steps we have taken to respond to the controversies raised last year. Five key objections were raised against the FDA reform bill that had been reported on a strong bipartisan vote from the Labor and Human Resources Committee during the last Congress. In that vein, we have sought to and have accomplished addressing each of the substantive concerns raised by the minority.

Last year's measure was criticized by some for the number of mandatory, but shortened, product review time frames that critics said would overburden the FDA and for the hammers that would have required FDA to contract out some product reviews or to give priority to products approved abroad. Today's legislation eliminates most of the mandatory time frames and retains only those necessary to ensure collaborative, more efficient reviews or to facilitate quick reviews of low risk products. The contracting out and European review hammers that would have forced FDA actions have been eliminated.

Last year's provision allowing for third party, outside expert review were criticized for turning central regulatory authority decisions over to private industry, creating conflicts of interest, and depriving FDA of resources and expertise. Today's legislation adopts FDA's current system for accrediting and selecting third-party review organizations. The bill expands FDA's current pilot third-party review program beyond just the lowest risk devices and FDA retains final approval for all devices. Devices that are life-