

Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Diocese of Scranton; Mary Louise Schaeffer, Executive Director, Maternal and Family Health Services of Wilkes-Barre; Henry Hewitt, Principal, Scranton Preparatory High School; and Reverend Frank Bissol, Elkdale Baptist Church, West Clifford, PA.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 936. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am pleased to favorably report out from the Committee on Armed Services an original bill, without a written report, which is a second version of the national defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1998.

This bill is identical to S. 924, the national defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1998, ordered reported by the Committee on Armed Services on June 12, 1997, except that it does not contain sections 311, 312, and 313, pertaining to depot-level activities of the Department of Defense, which were contained in subtitle B of title III of that bill.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 3, a bill to provide for fair and accurate criminal trials, reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, reduce the fiscal burden imposed by criminal alien prisoners, promote safe citizen self-defense, combat the importation, production, sale, and use of illegal drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 10

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 10, a bill to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, and for other purposes.

S. 121

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] was added as a cosponsor 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 names of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], and the

Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD] were added as cosponsors 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. 224

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit covered beneficiaries under the military health care system who are also entitled to Medicare to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, and for other purposes.

S. 364

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to provide legal standards and procedures for suppliers of raw materials and component parts for medical devices.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], and the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD] were added as cosponsors of S. 394, a bill to partially restore compensation levels to their past equivalent in terms of real income and establish the procedure for adjusting future compensation of justices and judges of the United States.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. REED] was added as a cosponsor of S. 496, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax to individuals who rehabilitate historic homes or who are the first purchasers of rehabilitated historic homes for use as a principal residence.

S. 513

At the request of Mr. MACK, the names of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI], the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH], and the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS] were added as cosponsors of S. 513, a bill to reform the multifamily rental assisted housing programs of the Federal Government, maintain the affordability and availability of low-income housing, and for other purposes.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] was added as a cosponsor of S. 536, a bill to amend the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 to establish a program to support and encourage local communities that first demonstrate a comprehensive, long-term commitment to reduce substance abuse among youth, and for other purposes.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Alabama

[Mr. SHELBY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain small businesses from the mandatory electronic fund transfer system.

S. 625

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to provide for competition between forms of motor vehicle insurance, to permit an owner of a motor vehicle to choose the most appropriate form of insurance for that person, to guarantee affordable premiums, to provide for more adequate and timely compensation for accident victims, and for other purposes.

S. 770

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 770, a bill to encourage production of oil and gas within the United States by providing tax incentives, and for other purposes.

S. 923

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD], the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL], and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] were added as cosponsors of S. 923, a bill to deny veterans benefits to persons convicted of Federal capital offenses.

SENATE RESOLUTION 71

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAUX] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 71, A resolution to ensure that the Senate is in compliance with the Congressional Accountability Act with respect to permitting a disabled individual access to the Senate floor when that access is required to allow the disabled individual to discharge his or her official duties.

SENATE RESOLUTION 98

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI], the Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM], the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB], the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER], the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH], the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER], and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 98, A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to any international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change.

SENATE RESOLUTION 102—RELATIVE TO INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. SPECTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 102

Whereas India is the world's largest democracy and shares with the United States the system in which the supreme power to govern is invested in the people;

Whereas the people of India drew upon the values of the rule of law in creating a representative democracy;

Whereas India and the United States share a common bond of being former British colonies;

Whereas India's independence was achieved pledged to the principles of fairness, dignity, peace and democracy;

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas August 15, 1997 marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the struggle which freed the Indian people from British colonial rule; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Indian people, and to reaffirm the democratic principles on which our two great nations were born: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That August 15, 1997 is designated as Indian Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Indian and American Democracy. The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I am submitting this resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of India's independence. This resolution will designate August 15, 1997, as "Independence Day for the Nation of India," a day of celebration of Indian and American democracy.

On August 15, 1947, India came into existence and has been dedicated to democracy and the rule of law for the past 50 years. It is a multiethnic country of 950 million people, who speak more than 18 major languages and hundreds of dialects.

I have had the pleasure to visit India on a number of occasions, most recently with the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Senator BROWN, in August 1995, when we met with Prime Minister Rao. That was a fascinating meeting when the Prime Minister immediately undertook a discussion of the necessity to have the subcontinent nuclear free. Regrettably, there has been much controversy, much tension between Pakistan and India. On that occasion, Prime Minister Rao emphasized his desire to see the subcontinent nuclear free.

The next day, Senator BROWN and I had occasion to visit with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad and talk to her about establishing a nuclear free subcontinent.

Later, Senator BROWN and I wrote jointly to President Clinton urging that the President invite the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan to the

White House to see if a nuclear free subcontinent might be accomplished with the assistance of the good offices of the United States.

I am delighted to see my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM, assuming the Chair, the lofty position of presiding over the U.S. Senate. I am glad to see my colleague here.

Back to my resolution. India's democracy has thrived over the past 50 years, testimony to the fact that principles of freedom are not limited to the most prosperous countries of the West, but a country which has become independent and democratic, notwithstanding its problems with its economy.

There are strong links between the two nations, India and the United States. We are both former British colonies and, in our own civil rights struggles of the last generation, great Americans, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, borrowed the concepts of peaceful dissent from India from the teaching of India's independence leader, Mahatma Gandhi.

The number of Indian, Americans living in the United States continues to increase steadily. The rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Indian people contribute to the great diversity of the United States of America.

Relations between our countries have seen some difficulties, and there are still areas for improvement, but our mutual values of democracy and the rule of law bridge these differences.

I submit this resolution because it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Indian people and to reaffirm the democratic principles which our two great nations cherish. I ask the American people to join with me in celebrating 50 years of India's independence.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER PARKING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

CHAFEE AMENDMENT NO. 412

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. CHAFEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 797) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize the design and construction of additions to the parking garage and certain site improvements, and for other purposes; as follows:

Page 3, line 7, strike "or".

Page 3, line 12, strike the first period and all that follows and insert "; or".

Page 3, after line 12, insert the following:

"(C) any project to acquire large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater or to produce an interpretive film that the Board specifically designates will be financed using sources other than appropriated funds."

Page 4, strike lines 9 through 14.

Page 4, line 15, strike "5" and insert "4".

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today the Committee on Environment and

Public Works is reporting a bill, S. 797, the John F. Kennedy Center Parking Lot Improvement Act, as ordered reported on June 5, 1997. I am also filing a technical amendment to the bill which corrects a potential problem with respect to the funding of any large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater for the Kennedy Center. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure that the Board of Trustees of the Kennedy Center are prohibited from using appropriated funds for acquisition of such equipment.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

LAUTENBERG AMENDMENT NO. 413

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 924) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike out section 3138.

THE VETERANS BENEFITS DENIAL ACT OF 1997

SPECTER (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 414

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. INHOFE) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 923) to deny veterans benefits to persons convicted of Federal capital offenses; as follows:

On page 1 lines 4 and 5, strike "or state".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding U.S. agricultural exports.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, to conduct a markup of the committee's legislative submission for the budget reconciliation package.

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