

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it request the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 437. An act to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

## ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 342. An act to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

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

## MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 437. An act to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1747. An act 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.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2238. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a draft of proposed legislation to facilitate the administration and enforcement of voluntary inspection and grading programs, the tobacco inspection program,

marketing orders and agreements, and the commodity research and promotion programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2239. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to amending regulations for various commodity warehouses, received on June 17, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2240. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Final Free and Reserve Percentages for the 1996-97 Crop Year for Natural Seedless Raisins", received on June 17, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2241. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Streamlining the Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste Program Regulations", received on June 17, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2242. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules including a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2243. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules including a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2244. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, four rules including a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2245. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, two rules including a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska" received on June 3, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2246. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three rules including a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2247. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a certification regarding the incidental capture of sea turtles; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2248. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report concerning a rule entitled "Railroad Consolidation Procedures" received on June 18, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2249. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three reports relative to Superfund Annual Reports for fiscal years 1992-1994; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2250. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue

Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule relative to Revenue Procedure 97-31, received on June 18, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2251. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a Presidential Determination relative to the Trade Act of 1974; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2252. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a Presidential Determination relative to Albania; to the Committee on Finance.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Allocation To Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1998" (Rept. No. 105-31).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 648. A bill to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-32).

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I report favorably two nominations lists in the Coast Guard, which were printed in full in the RECORD on February 27, and May 15, 1997, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

(The nominations ordered to lie on the Secretary's desk were printed in the RECORDS of February 27 and May 15, 1997, at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

In the Coast Guard, nominations beginning Catherine M. Kelly and ending Ronald W. Reush, whose nominations were received by the Senate and appearing in the RECORD of February 27, 1997.

In the Coast Guard, Richard W. Sanders, said nomination received by the Senate and appearing in the RECORD of May 15, 1997.

## 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. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 937. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the cancellation of 6 existing leases and to ban all new leasing activities in the area off the coast of Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 938. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at the prevention and cessation of prenatal and postnatal smoking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 939. A bill to establish a National Panel on Early Reading Research and Effective Reading Instruction; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 940. A bill to provide for a study of the establishment of Midway Atoll as a national memorial to the Battle of Midway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. GORTON, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 941. A bill to promote the utilization of marine ferry and high-speed marine ferry services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 937. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the cancellation of 6 existing leases and to ban all new leasing activities in the area off the coast of Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

##### FLORIDA COAST PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague, Senator GRAHAM, to introduce the Florida Coast Protection Act. This legislation will cancel the six oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf closest to Florida's coast. Representative SCARBOROUGH is leading a similar effort in the House of Representatives.

Mr. President, Floridians have always been justifiably concerned about the prospect of oil and gas exploration in the waters off our State. We are well aware of the risk this activity poses to our environment and our economy.

Throughout my tenure in the Senate I have opposed exploration and drilling off Florida's coasts. My goal—and the goal the entire Florida congressional delegation—is to permanently remove this threat from our coastlines. In recent years, we have stood together in opposition to drilling and have successfully extended the annual moratorium on all new leasing activities on Florida's continental shelf.

The reason for our concern is simple, Mr. President. In Florida, a healthy environment means a healthy economy. Millions of people come to our State each year to enjoy the climate, the coastlines, and our fine quality of life.

It would only take one disaster to end Florida's good standing as America's vacationland and we cannot afford to let that happen.

Mr. President, if the current exploration plan runs its course, there is the potential for the operation of up to 400 drill rigs off Florida's panhandle. A recent permit report from the Environmental Protection Agency states that a typical rig can be expected to discharge between 6,500 and 13,000 barrels of waste. This presents a huge potential for damage to our near-shore coastal waters and beaches. The report warns of further harmful impact on marine mammal populations, fish populations, and air quality. We cannot afford these risks in Florida and we do not want these risks in Florida.

But while the opposition of Floridians to oil drilling is well documented, the reality remains that leases have been let, potential drilling sites have been explored and it is likely that actual extraction of resources will take place 17 miles off the coast of Florida. Mr. President, if this is allowed to happen, the drill rigs will be within the line of sight from vacationers in Pensacola. This Congress must not allow that to happen.

The legislation we are introducing today is very simple. It provides for cancellation of the lease tract 17 miles off Pensacola. Under the OCS Lands Act, Mr. President, the current holders of these leases would be entitled to fair compensation for their investment. This is only fair. The bill also makes permanent the moratorium on any new leasing activity in order to ensure the past mistake of leasing in the OCS off Florida is not repeated.

If the threat of oil and gas exploration is to be permanently removed from our shores, it will require responsible leadership from the Congress. This legislation, in my view, is absolutely necessary to protect our state's economic and environmental well-being.

I urge my colleagues to support this worthwhile effort.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I am very pleased to join my colleague Senator MACK in introducing the Florida Coast Protection Act today. It represents the next step in the State of Florida's long battle to preserve our beautiful coastal and marine ecosystem.

Floridians oppose offshore oil drilling because of the threat it presents to the State's greatest natural and economic resource: our coastal environment. Florida's beaches, fisheries, and wildlife draw millions of tourists each year from around the globe, supporting our State's largest industry. Tourism supports, directly or indirectly, millions of jobs all across Florida, and the industry generates billions of dollars every year.

The Florida coastline boasts some of the richest estuarine areas in the world. These brackish waters, with their mangrove forests and seagrass

beds, provide an irreplaceable link in the life cycle of many species, both marine and terrestrial. Florida's commercial fishing industry relies on these estuaries because they support the nurseries for the most commercially harvested fish. Perhaps the most environmentally delicate regions in the gulf, estuaries could be damaged beyond repair by a relatively small oil spill.

Over the years, we have met with some success in our effort to protect Florida's OCS. In 1995, the lawsuit surrounding the cancellation of the leases around the Florida Keys was settled, removing the immediate threat of oil and gas drilling from what is an extremely sensitive area. While I believe strongly that a long-term strategy is needed for the entire Florida coastline, the legislation we are introducing today focuses on a more near-term goal: to cancel six leases in an area 17 miles off the coast from Pensacola. The bill provides a mechanism for leaseholders to seek compensation under section 5 of the OCS Lands Act. Both Senator MACK and I believe the leaseholders have the absolute right to just compensation from the Federal Government in order to recover their investment.

As the member of the Florida delegation who serves on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—the committee with jurisdiction over this issue—I anticipate a difficult and precarious road to enactment. But the Florida delegation as a whole has no other choice than to pursue with all our combined abilities the goal we envision: to take another major step toward ensuring the wellbeing of the Outer Continental Shelf offshore the State of Florida.

In addition to introducing this legislation today, Senator MACK and I intend to write to Chairman FRANK MURKOWSKI of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to request a hearing on this bill as soon as possible. Floridians will have our very best effort to make the Florida Coast Protection Act Federal law.

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

S. 938. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at the prevention and cessation of prenatal and postnatal smoking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

##### THE MOTHERS AND INFANTS HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Mothers and Infants Health Protection Act on behalf of myself and Senator BUMPERS. First, I express my sincere thanks to my colleagues in the Senate last week for having passed the Birth Defects Prevention Act. That act was a tremendous step forward in protecting the health of our Nation's most vulnerable population and in saving families from the economic and emotional hardships associated with birth defects.