

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1866) to continue favorable treatment for need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the terrorist bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997.

MEASURE REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the terrorist bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1998" (Rept. No. 105-74).

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. MCCAIN:

S. 1152. A bill to establish a National Environmental Technology Achievement Award, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. FORD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERREY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROTH, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1153. A bill to promote food safety through continuation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program operated by the Secretary of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. MACK):

S. Con. Res. 51. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding elections for the legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1152. A bill to establish a National Environmental Technology Achievement Award, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I'm introducing legislation to establish a National Environmental Technology Achievement Award.

The annual award would be presented jointly by the EPA and the Department of Commerce to recognize our Nation's premier environmental technology advancement. Specifically, the award would recognize the major technological improvements in the prevention and cleanup of threats to the Nation's air, land, and water resources. The yearly prize would include a financial award to be raised from the private sector.

In order to achieve our Nation's environmental protection goals in the face of a growing population and expanding economy, we must develop more efficient and effective technologies to reduce and cleanup pollution, including advanced smokestack emission controls, improved water treatment systems, and manufacturing processes which reduce waste, just to name a few.

While the financial rewards for developing such technology are presumably large, a national award would provide additional incentive to innovators and would highlight the importance of such advancements to our Nation.

The bill would create a 14-member volunteer board to set the award criteria; design the award; establish a monetary prize; raise funds; develop a consideration and selection process; and select the annual recipient.

The board would be comprised of the Administrator of EPA, Secretary of Commerce, National Science Advisor, Director of the National Science Foundation, Secretary of the Interior, or their designees. In addition, the panel would include three representatives from academia; three representatives from industry; and three representatives from environmental and conservation organizations. One in each category would be chosen by the President, one by the Speaker of the House and one by the majority leader of the Senate.

The bill is supported by the Environmental Defense Fund, the National Parks, and Conservation Association; the World Wildlife Fund and other environmental groups. I urge my colleagues to support this simple, but I believe appropriate and helpful, initiative.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. FORD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERREY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROTH, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1153. A bill to promote food safety through continuation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program operated by the Secretary of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce important legislation providing for the permanent authorization of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank [FARAD] program. I am joined by 15 of my colleagues and I hope the Senate will pass this legislation very soon.

Mr. President, food safety has long been of tantamount importance to the veterinary profession and to the American consumer. Customers rightly expect that the food they purchase is of the highest quality. More importantly, consumers must know that the food they consume is safe. And our veterinarians work to help consumers in this endeavor. This legislation is designed to help Americans maintain their safe, wholesome food supply.

In 1982, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service undertook an educational effort to prevent chemical residues in food animal products. That same year, the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service [FSIS] sponsored a Residue Avoidance Program as a repository of residue avoidance information and educational materials.

FARAD was founded as a cooperative, multi-State effort by Drs. Stephen Sundlof of the University of Florida, Jim Riviere of North Carolina State University, Arthur Craig Miller of the University of California, Davis, and William Buck of the University of Illinois. Each investigator brought a unique expertise to the collaboration. Since that origin, FARAD has evolved into an expert-mediated residue avoidance decision support system which is crucial to food safety across the Nation.

FARAD provides an invaluable service to the animal health profession, helping veterinarians provide appropriate, science-based therapy—improving animal health while preventing food safety risks to consumers from residues. FARAD's computer-based decision support system is designed to provide livestock producers, pharmacists, and extension specialists with immediate access to practical information on drugs, pesticides, and environmental contaminants which hold the greatest potential for residue formation in livestock food products.

Since its inception, FARAD has published three handbooks and two practical software products, while maintaining a telephone hotline and an internet access site—all devoted to providing the information necessary to protect the livestock food system from contamination.

Through the USDA Extension Service, FARAD has received approximately \$200,000 per year since its inception. These funds have been awarded on the basis of competitive grants, relying

on matching funds from the participating universities. However, for the universities providing this valuable service the price has been too high. It is time to provide adequate Federal funding to accomplish this vital work.

FARAD provides a vital service across the country. Congress must now express its support for this tool which can help maintain the well-founded confidence of the American consumers in their food supply.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this valuable legislation and I urge its adoption.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1153

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE PROGRAM.

(a) CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall continue operation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program (referred to in this section as the "FARAD program") through contracts with appropriate colleges or universities.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the FARAD program, the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) provide livestock producers, extension specialists, scientists, and veterinarians with information to prevent drug, pesticide, and environmental contaminant residues in food animal products;

(2) maintain up-to-date information concerning—

(A) withdrawal times on FDA-approved food animal drugs and appropriate withdrawal intervals for drugs used in food animals in the United States, as established under section 512(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b(a));

(B) official tolerances for drugs and pesticides in tissues, eggs, and milk;

(C) descriptions and sensitivities of rapid screening tests for detecting residues in tissues, eggs, and milk; and

(D) data on the distribution and fate of chemicals in food animals;

(3) publish periodically a compilation of food animal drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration;

(4) make information on food animal drugs available to the public through handbooks and other literature, computer software, a telephone hotline, and the Internet;

(5) furnish producer quality-assurance programs with up-to-date data on approved drugs;

(6) maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date, residue avoidance database;

(7) provide professional advice for determining the withdrawal times necessary for food safety in the use of drugs in food animals; and

(8) engage in other activities designed to promote food safety.

(c) CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall offer to enter into contracts with appropriate colleges and universities to operate the FARAD program.

(2) TERM.—The term of a contract under subsection (a) shall be 3 years, with options to extend the term of the contract triennially.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 100

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 100, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide protection for airline employees who provide certain air safety information, and for other purposes.

S. 852

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] and the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU] were added as cosponsors of S. 852, a bill to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, nonrepairable, and rebuilt vehicles.

S. 989

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 989, a bill entitled the "Safer Schools Act of 1997."

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] and the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] were added as cosponsors of S. 1084, a bill to establish a research and monitoring program for the national ambient air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter and to reinstate the original standards under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1105

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a sound budgetary mechanism for financing health and death benefits of retired coal miners while ensuring the long-term fiscal health and solvency of such benefits, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 12, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the collection on data on ancestry in the decennial census.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH], the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO],

the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE], the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM], the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER], the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL], and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 50, a concurrent resolution condemning in the strongest possible terms the bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997.

SENATE RESOLUTION 111

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the names of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 111, a resolution designating the week beginning September 14, 1997, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week," and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51—RELATIVE TO THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. MACK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 51

Whereas the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong guarantees Hong Kong a high degree autonomy in all matters except defense and foreign affairs, and an elected legislature;

Whereas the United States policy regarding Hong Kong, as stated in the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-383), is based on the autonomy and self-governance of Hong Kong by the Hong Kong people;

Whereas a democratically elected legislature enabling the Hong Kong people to elect representatives of their choice is essential to the autonomy and self-governance of Hong Kong;

Whereas the provisional legislature of Hong Kong was selected through an undemocratic process controlled by the People's Republic of China;

Whereas this provisional legislature has adopted rules for the creation of the first legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region which rules are designed to disadvantage and reduce the number of pro-democracy politicians in the legislature; and

Whereas the autonomy of Hong Kong cannot exist without a legislature that is elected freely and fairly according to rules approved by the Hong Kong people or their democratically elected representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress urges Hong Kong Chief Executive C.H. Tung and the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to schedule and conduct elections for the first legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region according to rules approved by the Hong Kong people through an election-law convention, referendum, or both.