

Through Senator DOMENICI's discussions it became evident that a wide gulf separated the views of the Administration and Russian leadership with regard to the appropriate disposition actions. The Russians hold the position that plutonium has great value, and want to ensure that any actions extract the energy resource remaining in the material by using it as reactor fuel. The U.S. was considering both recovery of this resource and immobilization. Immobilization mixes the plutonium with ceramic material and surrounds it with vitrified, high-level waste for long term storage. Some scientists and some Russian leaders have noted that immobilization may be a less secure means of disposition than use as a reactor fuel.

Senator DOMENICI encouraged a solution wherein both nations would pursue the reactor fuel option, with so-called mixed oxide or MOX fuel. In addition, the U.S. can use immobilization for some of its less pure materials that would require significant purification to incorporate into reactor-grade fuel. This solution has been embraced in the current negotiations by both countries. Now both nations are moving toward parallel reductions in amounts of plutonium.

Our Task Force has been briefed by the Departments of State and Energy on the current status of negotiations on a Framework Agreement to implement a plutonium disposition process in Russia and the United States. A U.S.-Russian agreement to dispose up to 50 metric tons of weapons grade material on each side is proceeding in a very positive direction. I am hopeful that they will soon produce a draft agreement. There are still important issues to be resolved and hurdles to be cleared but it is clear that we would not have enjoyed this significant progress if it were not for Senator DOMENICI's leadership. His efforts in cooperation with Senator STEVENS, the Chairman of our Appropriations Committee, to secure forward funding for the implementation of this agreement was crucial in securing Russian participation.

I commend my good friend, the senior Senator from New Mexico, for his leadership in this area and thank him for what I hope will be a tremendously valuable national security program. We will all watch the negotiations proceeding in Moscow and hope for a positive conclusion. When this agreement is finalized and implemented, which I believe it will be, each of us will owe Senator DOMENICI a debt of gratitude for making the world safer for our children and grandchildren.

RETIREMENT OF GEORGE T. COSTIN

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate George T. Costin, Library Technician, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Senate Library

on February 8, 2000. For 32 years—27 in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate—George has labored selflessly every day supporting the work of the Senate. George left his home state of North Carolina in 1963 and a brief stop over in Washington lasted for more than three decades.

George began his Senate career with the Sergeant at Arms in 1967 and joined the Library staff in 1972. He has made our duties far easier and throughout the years he has been the Ambassador of Goodwill with his wonderful smile, kind words, and unmatched style. He was always proud of being part of the Senate Family.

George will be very busy in retirement with church activities, a demanding golf schedule, and the joy of a new grandson. Along with all of his friends, I commend George for his loyalty and dedicated service to the United States Senate. I know that all Senators will join me in thanking George, his wife Gloria, and his three children, Angie, Samantha, and George, Jr., for his dedicated and distinguished service. It is with deep appreciation that we extend our best wishes for many years of health and happiness.

FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Senator SPECTER, as primary cosponsor of a sense of the Senate resolution, introduced yesterday, that puts the Senate on record that funding for NIH should be increased by \$2.7 billion in Fiscal Year 2001. NIH is the premier medical research institution in the world—research funded by NIH is key to maintaining the quality of our health care and key to finding preventive measures, cures and the most cost effective treatments for the major illnesses and conditions that strike Americans.

Two years ago, our Appropriations Subcommittee provided NIH with a \$2 billion increase to set us on a five-year course to double NIH funding over five years. Last year, our Subcommittee was able to secure a \$2.3 billion increase for NIH—continuing on the course to double NIH funding over five years. A \$2.7 billion increase for NIH in Fiscal Year 2001 would keep us on track to double NIH in the five years.

I was disappointed that the President's budget which we received today only requested a \$1 billion increase for NIH. Funding biomedical research is especially important now when research on stem cells and progress made on the Human Genome project offer such promise. I hope to work closely with Senator SPECTER this year to build on last year's increase for NIH as we move to doubling funding for NIH by 2003.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday,

February 7, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,693,618,340,748.18 (Five trillion, six hundred ninety-three billion, six hundred eighteen million, three hundred forty thousand, seven hundred forty-eight dollars and eighteen cents).

Five years ago, February 7, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,806,973,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred six billion, nine hundred seventy-three million).

Ten years ago, February 7, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$2,988,020,000,000 (Two trillion, nine hundred eighty-eight billion, twenty million).

Fifteen years ago, February 7, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,682,610,000,000 (One trillion, six hundred eighty-two billion, six hundred ten million).

Twenty-five years ago, February 7, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$489,675,000,000 (Four hundred eighty-nine billion, six hundred seventy-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,203,943,340,748.18 (Five trillion, two hundred three billion, nine hundred forty-three million, three hundred forty thousand, seven hundred forty-eight dollars and eighteen cents) during the past 25 years.

MEASURE PLACE ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 2036. A bill to make permanent the moratorium on the imposition of taxes on the Internet.

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-7432. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Budget Estimates and Performance Plan," Fiscal Year 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7433. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eligibility Criteria for the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty and Other Miscellaneous Issues" (RIN2900-AI63), received February 7, 2000; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7434. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Andean Trade Preference Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7435. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7436. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Travel and Tour Activities of Tax-Exempt Organizations" (RIN1545-AW10), received February 7, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7437. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TD 8871: Remedial Amendment Period" (RIN1545-AV22), received February 7, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7438. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Rules for Making and Maintaining Qualified Fund Elections" (RIN1545-AV39), received February 7, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7439. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "February 2000 Applicable Federal Rates" (Rev. Rul. 2000-9), received February 4, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7440. A communication from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Development Assistance and Child Survival and Disease Programs; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7441. A communication from the Under Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the processing of a satellite export license application; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7442. A communication from the Under Secretary of the Navy transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the study of certain functions performed by military and civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy for possible performance by private contractors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7443. A communication from the Executive Director, District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the General Purpose Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7444. A communication from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Potomac Electric Power Company transmitting, pursuant to law, the balance sheet of the Company, as of December 31, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

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-401. a resolution adopted by the House of the legislature of the State of Michigan relative to proposed guidelines for federally funded research using stem cells harvested from human embryos; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 253

Whereas, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has published, for public comment, guidelines for federally funded research projects using stem cells destructively harvested from human embryos; and

Whereas, Since 1996, Congress has prohibited federally funded research in which human embryos are harmed or destroyed; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan has a long legal and ethical tradition of respecting life at its earliest stages; and

Whereas, Michigan law prohibits any research that destroys human embryos, so the NIH guidelines, in effect, instruct research-

ers in how to harvest stem cells from embryos in ways that constitute criminal activity in this state; and

Whereas, Michigan has taken the unparalleled step in this country of respecting human life at its earliest stages by prohibiting the use of cloning to create human embryos for research; and

Whereas, Medical ethics historically have rejected justifying research in the name of medical progress when it requires harming or destroying innocent human lives; and

Whereas, Numerous avenues for developing new medical treatments from stem cells that do not require the destruction of human embryos have shown great clinical promise; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we strongly object to the National Institutes of Health proposed guidelines and policies regarding research on human embryos to ensure full accordance with federal laws that prohibit NIH involvement in destructive embryo research; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the NIH to withdraw the proposed guidelines and to clarify NIH guidelines and policies regarding research on human embryos to ensure full accordance with federal laws that prohibit NIH involvement in destructive embryo research; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the National Institutes of Health to direct all proposed funding for stem cell research to projects that do not use stem cells destructively harvested from human embryos; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the National Institutes of Health, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the President of the United States.

POM-402. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio relative to the "Defense of Privacy Act"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Committee on Armed Services:

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Robert L. Halverson, 5509.

To be brigadier general

Col. Edmund T. Beckett, 5971.

Col. James J. Bisson, 6236.

Col. Raymond C. Byrne Jr., 5792.

Col. Daniel D. Densford, 0210.

Col. Jeffrey L. Gidley, 9702.

Col. Danny H. Hickman, 0335.

Col. James D. Johnson, 9083.

Col. Dennis M. Kenneally, 2586.

Col. Dion P. Lawrence, 1257.

Col. Robert G. Maskiell, 9965.

Col. Daryl K. McCall, 2627.

Col. Terrell T. Reddick, 9266.

Col. Ronald D. Taylor, 4916.

Col. John T. Von Trott, 1310.

Col. William H. Weir, 0308.

Col. Dean A. Youngman, 4722.

Col. Walter E. Zink II, 8489.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first time and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2038. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reduce accidental injury and death resulting from medical mistakes and to reduce medication-related errors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON:

S. 2039. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide emergency loans to poultry producers to rebuild chicken houses destroyed by disasters; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BUNNING:

S. 2040. A bill to exclude the receipts and disbursements of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund from the budget of the United States Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 2041. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt discharges from certain silvicultural activities from permit requirements of the national pollutant discharge elimination system; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. Res. 254. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Olympics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2038. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reduce accidental injury and death resulting from medical mistakes and to reduce medication-related errors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEDICAL ERROR REDUCTION ACT OF 2000

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator HARKIN and myself, I am introducing legislation captioned the Medical Error Reduction Act of 2000. This legislation is introduced in response to a report from the Institute of Medicine which shows a very high death rate as a result of errors in hospitals.

The statistics show that the death rate from errors in hospitals may be as high as 98,000 people. A chart has been prepared demonstrating that at the 98,000 figure, which is the uppermost estimate, medical errors are the fifth