

(Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2308, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to assure preservation of safety net hospitals through maintenance of the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program.

S. 2580

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2580, a bill to provide for the issuance of bonds to provide funding for the construction of schools of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2686, a bill to amend chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, to modify rates relating to reduced rate mail matter, and for other purposes.

S. 2700

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfields, to provide financial assistance for brownfields revitalization, to enhance State response programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2764

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2764, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to extend the authorizations of appropriations for the programs carried out under such Acts, and for other purposes.

S. 2868

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2868, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to children's health.

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2868, *supra*.

S. 2884

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2884, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow allocation of small ethanol producer credit to patrons of cooperative, and for other purposes.

S. 3016

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3016, to amend the Social Security Act to establish an outpatient prescription drug assistance program for low-income medicare beneficiaries and medicare beneficiaries with high drug costs.

S. 3020

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) and the Senator from

Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3020, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to revise its regulations authorizing the operation of new, low-power FM radio stations.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

S. CON. RES. 106

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 106, a concurrent resolution recognizing the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, as a national symbol of the contributions of Americans of German heritage.

S. CON. RES. 122

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 122, concurrent resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the United States non-recognition policy of the Soviet takeover of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and calling for positive steps to promote a peaceful and democratic future for the Baltic region.

S. RES. 304

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 304, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the development of educational programs on veterans' contributions to the country and the designation of the week that includes Veterans Day as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the presentation of such educational programs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 350—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA'S CLOSED MARKET TO UNITED STATES SODA ASH EXPORTS

Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. RES. 350

Whereas the United States had a \$5.4 billion trade deficit with India in 1999, due in part to India's restrictive trade practices which keep otherwise competitive foreign goods from entering the Indian market;

Whereas United States soda ash, a chemical used predominantly in making glass, is one of the products being kept from entering the Indian market by those restrictive trade practices;

Whereas India's barriers to United States soda ash imports include a tariff which in

1997 was 35 percent, putting it among the highest in the world;

Whereas India's tariff barriers have steadily increased since 1997 by, *inter alia*—

(1) a 4 percent special additional tariff introduced in 1998 on nearly all imports;

(2) an additional 10 percent surcharge added to the applied existing tariff rates in 1999 on nearly all imports; and

(3) a "customs simplification" in 1999 which increased by 5 percent tariffs previously set at 0 percent, 10 percent, 20 percent and 30 percent rates;

Whereas India's 1999/2000 Budget has further increased the tariff on soda ash to 38.5 percent, making it the highest in the world and creating an impossible trade barrier for individual United States soda ash exporters to overcome in order to remain competitive;

Whereas India has erected further barriers to United States soda ash through the imposition of a "temporary" order by India's Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission ("MRTPC"), which precludes United States producers from exporting to India through the American Natural Soda Ash Corporation ("ANSAC"), an export trading joint venture which operates in strict accordance with the provisions of the Export Trade Promotion Act of 1917 (15 U.S. Code Sec. 61 *et seq.*) and the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 (15 U.S. Code Sec. 4001 *et seq.*);

Whereas this MRTPC order effectively maintains a complete and total de facto embargo on United States soda ash exports to India;

Whereas it appears that the MRTPC order was issued at the behest of Indian soda ash producers solely to protect their local market monopoly, rather than for legitimate reasons;

Whereas, since 1995 the United States Trade Representative's ("USTR") National Trade Estimate Report to Congress has identified India's denial of United States access to its soda ash market as a high priority;

Whereas, in January 1999, in response to an ANSAC petition, the USTR initiated a "country practice" petition to suspend India's duty-free benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences ("GSP") program on the grounds that India, by virtue of the foregoing tariffs and orders, fails to provide the United States equitable and reasonable access to its soda ash market;

Whereas, on February 14, 2000, U.S. Trade Representative Barshefsky and Secretary of Commerce Daley issued a joint press release concluding that "U.S. soda ash is being shut out of the Indian market;"

Whereas, in March 2000, in apparent response to ANSAC's efforts to open India's soda ash market, the MRTPC issued a "show cause" order why ANSAC representatives should not be held in criminal contempt;

Whereas the basis for that show cause order were statements made by ANSAC representatives during testimony before the USTR's GSP Subcommittee at a hearing in Washington in March 1999, which statements characterized the Indian soda ash market as closed and the actions of the MRTPC as unfair;

Whereas, the actions of the MRTPC appear to be designed to ensure that India's market remains closed to United States exports; and

Whereas the unfair closure of India's market to United States soda ash exports runs counter to the concepts of fair and free trade and to the interests of India's soda ash consumers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that India's tariffs on United States soda ash exports are excessive and are designed solely to exclude unfairly United States producers from the Indian market;

(2) the Senate strongly urges President Clinton, the USTR and the Government of India to use the mid-September visit to Washington of India's Prime Minister Vajpayee as an opportunity to address and settle the soda ash dispute by allowing United States soda ash equitable and reasonable access to the Indian market through the ANSAC joint venture at tariff reduced rates consistent with WTO normalization levels; and

(3) the Senate calls on the President and the USTR, in the absence of such a settlement, promptly to begin the process of suspending India's GSP benefits.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on September 12, 2000 in SR-328A at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of this hearing will be to review the operation of the Office of Civil Rights, USDA, and the role of the Office of General Counsel, USDA.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, September 13, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building for a hearing on S. 2899, a bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Holly Vineyard of the Finance Committee, a fellow from the Department of Commerce, be granted privilege of the floor during the remainder of the debate on H.R. 4444.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 1776

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1776 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

I ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1452, which is a bill to modernize the requirements for the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1994, as passed, be inserted in lieu thereof. I further ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the Senate insist upon its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, we have this afternoon received

the response from one of our Senators who believes this bill is very close, but that he has some problems with it. We would, therefore, on behalf of this unnamed Senator, object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me urge Senator REID and the leadership to work with us, if he would talk with that Senator and identify what the problem might be. I know this bill has broad, I think almost unanimous, support.

I read what the bill does in its title. It would modernize the requirements for manufactured housing construction. This is in the interest of consumers. It will help the industry because it will clarify what the standards should be.

It is about safety; it is about manufactured housing construction. I have a feeling the problem is not with this bill, that it is an unrelated issue. But I hope we can work through the objection and we will come back on Monday or Tuesday of next week, I might say to Senator REID, and see if we cannot get that worked out.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, I think it is an important piece of legislation. In Nevada, we depend very heavily on manufactured housing. We will do everything we can to see if we can get this worked out.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3615

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 525, H.R. 3615, the Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

I further ask consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 2097 as passed be inserted in lieu thereof. I further ask consent that the bill then be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate on this legislation.

Just so everybody in the Senate will understand, this is the rural local satellite bill. Most of us refer to it as the satellite bill. It is the bill that was developed as a result of an agreement last year to make sure that there was some way for these loans to be available so satellites could be put up in space, where those of us in rural States, smaller communities, would have access to these satellites with dishes, just like the cities have. This is an effort to keep that commitment.

I know Senator BURNS has worked very hard on this matter. I think Senator BAUCUS had a part in it. A number of Senators have worked on it. I thought this morning at 11:30 we had it cleared. I understand there was some

concern that maybe we would use this bill as a vehicle for some other specific bill or bills. This is too urgent. It is too important to my State and other States such as mine to not get it done. So there will not be any extraneous matter added to this bill. This bill will come out of conference clean. If any Senator has any reservations about that, if that is why there is an objection, if there is one, I assure the Senators and the leadership that that is not going to be the way it works.

I ask unanimous consent that we be able to take that legislation up under the request I made.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senator LEAHY, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: No. 426 through 432, 550, 598, 599, 600 through 610, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 625, 626 through 630, 632, 633, 657, 658, 684, and 685. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, the majority leader, he failed to read No. 644 and No. 645.

Mr. LOTT. I did skip over those: Nos. 640, 644, 645, and 653 should also be included in that list.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Larry L. Levitan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years.

Steven H. Nickles, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of four years.

Robert M. Tobias, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years.

Karen Hastie Williams, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of three years.

George L. Farr, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of four years.

Charles L. Kolbe, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of three years.

Nancy Killefer, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Delmond J.H. Won, of Hawaii, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2002.