

IN RECOGNITION OF ARCHBISHOP VATCHÉ HOVSEPIAN ON THE 52ND ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION AND FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the Senate's attention His Eminence Archbishop Vatché Hovsepian, on the 52nd anniversary of his ordination.

Archbishop Hovsepian is an inspirational and dynamic leader in the Armenian Church, and this milestone anniversary is a symbol of the Archbishop's 52 years of dedicated service and commitment to the Armenian people and the greater community in which he serves. Since 1996, he has served as the Archbishop of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

During his 50 years of service to his Church and community, His Eminence Vatché Hovsepian has been very active. The Archbishop has met with five Presidents of the United States, along with various religious leaders and political figures from all over the world, created new parishes, Armenian schools and summer camps. His Eminence Vatché Hovsepian has traveled and studied all over the world, thus allowing him to have the knowledge of many customs, traditions, cultures and languages.

The Archbishop has spoken eloquently about the Armenian Genocide and the importance that it be remembered by Armenians and people around the world.

He has addressed the California State legislature and been warmly received. He is widely known for his good works, including assistance with reconstruction in Armenia after the 1988 earthquake.

His Eminence Archbishop Vatché Hovsepian is a warm, compassionate and charismatic leader who is most deserving of the outpouring of admiration that greets him today and each day. I am honored to pay tribute to him, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Archbishop on this grand anniversary. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1036. An act to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

H.R. 1664. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 141. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 should be fundamentally reformed to be fairer, simpler, and less costly and to encourage economic growth, individual liberty, and investment in American jobs.

H. Con. Res. 142. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Syracuse University men's basketball team for winning the 2003 NCAA Division I men's basketball national championship.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 151) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to sexual exploitation of children.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1036. An act to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1664. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 141. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 should be fundamentally reformed to be fairer, simpler, and less costly and to encourage economic growth, individual liberty, and investment in American jobs; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 142. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Syracuse University

men's basketball team for winning the 2003 NCAA Division I men's basketball national championship.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-1876. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Selected Acquisition Report (SAR) which state that breaches of 15 percent or more occurred in both Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) of the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS)/BAT, received on April 7, 2003; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1877. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to an interagency audit of policies and procedures pertaining to the "export of technologies and technical information to countries of concern" received on March 28, 2003; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1878. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan (AMP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, received on April 1, 2003; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1879. A communication from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a statement to the U.S. Senate with respect to a transaction involving U.S. exports to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, received on April 4, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1880. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Flood Insurance Program; Standard Flood Insurance Policy 68 FR 9895 (RIN 3067-AD33)" received on April 3, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1881. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility 68 FR 9897 (Docket No.-7803)" received on April 3, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1882. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Housing Homeownership Program (RIN 2577-AC15) (FR-4504-F-02)" received on April 3, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1883. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Financial and Other Information (RIN 2550-AA25)" received on April 2, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1884. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Official Staff Commentary for Truth in Lending

(Regulations Z)" received on March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1885. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, General Accounting Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the financial statements of the Bank Insurance Fund (BIF), the Savings Association Insurance Fund (SAIF), and the FSLIC Resolution Fund (FRF); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1886. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HOME Investment Partnerships Program; CORRECTION (RIN 2501-AC30) (FR-4111-C-04)" received on April 1, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1887. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the implementation of the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001 submitted April 4, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1888. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Department of Transportation Management Decisions and Final Actions on the Office of Inspector General Audit Recommendations for the period ending September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1889. A communication from the Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the Export-Import Bank audit that was performed by Deloitte and Touche LLP, received on April 3, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1890. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the implementation of the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001 submitted March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1891. A communication from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on D.C. Act 15-33 "Emancipation Day Fund Temporary Act of 2003" received on March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1892. A communication from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on D.C. Act 15-32 "Kings Court Community Garden Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Temporary Act of 2003" received on March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1893. A communication from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on D.C. Act 15-31 "Housing Notice Temporary Amendment Act of 2003" received on March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1894. A communication from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on D.C. Act 15-30 "Marvin Caplan Memorial Designation Act 2003" received on March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1895. A communication from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on D.C. Act 15-29 "Closing of a Public alley in Square 341 S.O. 02-4058, Act of 2003" received on March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1896. A communication from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of

Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on D.C. Act 15-28 "William H. Rumsey, Sr. Aquatic Center Designation Act of 2003" received on March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1897. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual report summarizing the Securities and Exchange Commission's activities, received on April 3, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1898. A communication from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Document consisting of the Performance Plan for fiscal year (FY) 2004 and the Program Performance Report for FY 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1899. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Financial Report of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2002, received on March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1900. A communication from the Vice Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Legal Services Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Sunshine Act report for the Legal Services Corporation for 2002, received on April 1, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1902. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Commercial Activities Inventory for Fiscal Year 2002, received on April 1, 2003; 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-77. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming relative to tax treatment of Health insurance; to the Committee on Finance.

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, the high cost of health insurance has created a large number of uninsured citizens in the United States and the State of Wyoming;

Whereas, those without health insurance are less likely to receive adequate health care;

Whereas, insurance purchasing decisions are to a large extent made by employees and not insurance beneficiaries;

Whereas, overreliance on employer-provided health insurance impedes worker mobility;

Whereas, spiraling health care costs are in part caused by a lack of active consumer participation in health care markets;

Whereas, employers can deduct the full cost of employee health insurance as a business expense, while individuals may not: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. That the Wyoming State Legislature petitions the Congress of the United States to equalize the tax treatment of employer-provided and individually purchase health insurance by creating a tax credit for the full amount of insurance purchased by individuals.

Section 2. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of the resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United

States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

POM-78. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming relative to the declaration of an emergency in watersheds located in the national forests within Wyoming; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Whereas, the Wyoming State Legislature finds that:

(a) A state of emergency exists in Wyoming due to a shortage, and ever diminishing aggregate total supply, of water available to its citizens, communities, livestock, wildlife and their habitats.

(b) Virtually all Wyoming communities have been seriously threatened and impacted by a shortage of available water within the last calendar year.

(c) Virtually all Wyoming waterways are either presently experiencing, or within the last calendar year have experienced, a significant depletion of available water as well as the streams and tributaries that contribute water to the waterways.

(d) Most Wyoming livestock, wildlife and threatened or endangered species are now or are likely to be seriously imperiled by a shortage of available water either directly or indirectly via the impact of the water shortage on their supply of forage or prey base.

(e) Due to the existence of this declared state of emergency it is imperative that Wyoming promptly take necessary actions to restore and increase the aggregate total supply of water available within the state.

(f) This state's aggregate total supply of water is significantly dependent upon watersheds located on federal lands. To achieve an increase in the aggregate total supply of water in Wyoming it is imperative for the state to take appropriate actions that may be available to remedy the presently existent deteriorated conditions of these watersheds.

(g) The existence of excessive overgrowth on Wyoming's federal forests has been publicly acknowledged and declared both by state officials and in 2002 by the President of the United States, members of his cabinet, other administration officials and numerous members of the United States Congress.

(h) Numerous state and local Wyoming elected officials and other citizens have repeatedly petitioned the United States Forest Service over the last several years to take actions needed to remove or eliminate the excessive forest overgrowth conditions that exist on watersheds on the federal lands within the state of Wyoming. All the petitions have been effectively ignored by the Secretary of Agriculture and other officers within the federal government under her authority, reflecting what can only be characterized as their utter disregard for both the needs of Wyoming citizens and wildlife, and Wyoming's lawful rights to the waterflows.

(j) The United States Congress, in pertinent part, expressly provided that "No national forest shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of waterflows . . ." 16 U.S.C. §475. Congress reaffirmed this directive when it passed the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 by specifically stating that the national forests "shall be administered" for "watershed" purposes, 16 U.S.C. §528 et seq.

(k) The United States Supreme Court in *United States v. New Mexico*, 438 U.S. 696 (1978) stated "Congress has evidenced its continuing concern with enhancing the water supply for nonforest use by specifically authorizing the President to set aside and protect national forest lands needed as sources of municipal water supplies. 16 U.S.C. §552a."