

Johnson, 36th President, designer of the Great Society, politician, educator, and civil rights enforcer.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 406. An act to award a congressional gold medal in recognition of Alice Paul's role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2894. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins to commemorate the bicentennial of the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and the War of 1812, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5614. An act to authorize the production in palladium of Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle coins as ultra-high relief numismatic coins and bullion investment coins in order to provide affordable opportunities for investments in precious metals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5834. An act to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5872. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the Boy Scouts of America; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5916. An act to reform the administration of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 331. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H. Con. Res. 354. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President, designer of the Great Society, politician, educator, and civil rights enforcer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

H.R. 3320. A bill to provide assistance for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland (Rept. No. 110-336).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

G. Steven Agee, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Nominations without an asterisk 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 and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 3030. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2008 to provide for the conveyance to the United States of certain non-Federal land to be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the construction of a veterans medical facility; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SUNUNU, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 3031. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to limit the use of ethanol to meet the renewable fuel standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3032. A bill to increase the standard mileage rate for use of an automobile for business, medical, and moving deduction purposes for 2008 and permanently increase such rate for charitable deduction purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and to temporarily increase the reimbursement rate for use of an automobile by Federal employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3033. A bill to protect investors by fostering transparency and accountability of attorneys in private securities litigation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY)):

S. 3034. A bill to protect the interests of bona fide tenants in the case of any foreclosure on any dwelling or residential real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 569. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the earthquake that struck Sichuan Province of the People's Republic of China on May 12, 2008; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Res. 570. A resolution congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 170

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communications services.

S. 573

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 573, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 594

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 594, a bill to limit the use, sale, and transfer of cluster munitions.

S. 843

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to provide for the establishment of a national mercury monitoring program.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis C virus infection.

S. 1556

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1571

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1571, a bill to reform the essential air service program, and for other purposes.

S. 1588

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1588, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity or disorder due to trauma, infection, tumor, or disease.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make permanent the summer food service pilot project for rural areas of Pennsylvania and apply the program to rural areas of every State.

S. 1995

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1995, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 2314

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make geothermal heat pump systems eligible for the energy credit and the residential energy efficient property credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to provide immigration reform by securing America's borders, clarifying and enforcing existing laws, and enabling a practical verification program.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2504

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America, and for other purposes.

S. 2682

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.

2682, a bill to direct United States funding to the United Nations Population Fund for certain purposes.

S. 2760

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2760, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 2771

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2771, a bill to require the president to call a White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010.

S. 2790

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2790, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of comprehensive cancer care planning under the Medicare program and to improve the care furnished to individuals diagnosed with cancer by establishing a Medicare hospice care demonstration program and grants programs for cancer palliative care and symptom management programs, provider education, and related research.

S. 2799

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2799, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2844

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2844, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify provisions relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes.

S. 2910

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2910, a bill to require brokers to disclose and pay independent truckers for any fuel surcharges received from shippers that relate to fuel costs paid for by the truckers.

S. 2942

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2942, a bill to authorize funding for the National Advocacy Center.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3033. A bill to protect investors by fostering transparency and accountability of attorneys in private securities litigation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN, Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce the Securities Litigation Attorney Accountability and Transparency Act. The Bill promotes transparency and court oversight in the selection and compensation of class counsel in securities class action litigation. As a result, this legislation helps to ensure that the lawyer for shareholder plaintiffs in securities class action lawsuits truly and faithfully represents the interests of the entire class, and not just their own interests and those of the large investors who are the lead plaintiffs. It has been said that the lead attorney in a class action suit serves a quasi-governmental role in that he seeks to enforce the law on behalf of a broad group of ordinary citizens and the investor community at large. Bringing transparency and accountability to securities class action litigation is important to protect the rights and interests of every American who owns stock.

When a class action lawsuit is brought against a company for defrauding shareholders, one of the first steps is the selection of the lead plaintiff. The lead plaintiff is the shareholder who will actually sit in the courtroom and represent the interests of all of the shareholders in the litigation. The lead plaintiff selects the lawyer who will represent the class in the lawsuit, subject only to approval by the court.

Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, the lead plaintiff is supposed to be the shareholder "that the court determines to be most capable of adequately representing the interests of class members." 15 U.S.C. 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(i). The PSLRA creates a presumption that, in general, the lead plaintiff should be the plaintiff with the "largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class." 15 U.S.C. 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(bb). The theory behind this rule is that the party with the most at stake will most vigorously defend the interests of the entire class. In general, this theory has proven true, and the PSLRA is a substantial improvement over the law before the PSLRA, in which the lead plaintiff was generally whoever first filed the lawsuit.

However, as recent events have shown, the PSLRA has itself proven subject to abuse. The Bill that I introduce today has been made necessary by recent scandals in which lawyers entered secret arrangements with lead plaintiffs to keep an unfair amount of