

the problem if left free. Republican Party used to stand for something and it needs to again. What happened to small government, sound economic policies, stay out of our way? We have a drug benefit plan but would it be better if they allowed a free market to bring prices down. I used to get my US manufactured meds from Canada but now pay a little less under a Medicare plan. If they can sell in Canada and make money, why not in the US? Why not free trade and competition?

By the way, because of the lack of sun spots we might be going into a little ice age, then what will the politicians do?

Thank you for reading this.

BOB.

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-498. A communication from the Assistant Inspector General, Communications and Congressional Liaison, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "DoD IG Report to Congress on Section 357 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008; Review of Physical Security of DoD Installations"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-499. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-500. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Exemptions for Eligible Credit Default Swaps to Facilitate Operation of Central Counterparties to Clear and Settle Default Swaps" (RIN3235-AK26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-501. A communication from the Executive Director of the Board of Directors, HOPE for Homeowners Program, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HOPE for Homeowners Program: Program Regulations: Upfront Payment Incentive for Subordinate Mortgage Lien Holders and Other Program Changes" (RIN2580-AA01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-502. A communication from the Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Railroad Safety Enforcement Procedures; Enforcement, Appeal and Hearing Procedures for Rail Routing Decisions" (RIN2130-AB87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-503. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an annual plan for the Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Resources Research and Development Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-504. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spiromesifen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL-

8398-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-505. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality: Revision to Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds—Exclusion of Propylene Carbonate and Dimethyl Carbonate" (RIN2060-AN75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-506. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Nevada; Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program" (FRL-8748-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-507. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding of Failure to Submit a Required State Implementation Plan Revision for 1-Hour Ozone Standard, California—San Joaquin Valley—Reasonably Available Control Technology" (FRL-8763-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-508. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plans Required for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; North Carolina and South Carolina" (FRL-8764-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-509. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil Pollution Prevention; Non-Transportation Related Onshore Facilities" (RIN2050-AG49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-510. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Operating Permit Programs; Flexible Air Permitting Rule" (RIN2060-AM45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-511. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on the Child Support Enforcement Program for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-512. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Evaluation of Phase I of Medicare Health Support Pilot Program Under Traditional Fee-for-Service Medicare: 18-Month Interim Analysis"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-513. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Guidance under Section 457A" (Notice 2009-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate

on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-514. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2009-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-515. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Ruling: 2009 Prevailing State Assumed Interest Rates" (Rev. Rul. 2009-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-516. A communication from the Staff Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel for Import Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of the Regulatory Provisions Governing Targeted Dumping in Antidumping Duty Investigations" (RIN0625-AA79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-517. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibitions and Conditions for Importation of Burmese and Non-Burmese Covered Articles of Jadeite, Rubies, and Articles of Jewelry Containing Jadeite or Rubies" (RIN1505-AC06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-518. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological Material from China" (RIN1505-AC08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-519. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's financial report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-520. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Insurance Reform; Modifications to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Electronic Transaction Standards" (RIN0938-AM50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-521. A communication from the Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to competitive sourcing activities for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-522. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2008 Report to Congress on the Benefits and Costs of Federal Regulations and Unfunded Mandates on State, Local, and Tribal Entities"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-523. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to competitive sourcing activities for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-524. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Security Personnel System" (RIN3206-AL75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-525. A communication from the Program Manager, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commerce in Explosives—Amended Definition of Propellant Actuated Device" (RIN1140-AA24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-526. A communication from the Program Manager, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Decision-Making Authority Regarding the Denial, Suspension, or Revocation of a Federal Firearms License, or Imposition of a Civil Fine" (Docket No. ATF 27P) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. KERRY for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Susan E. Rice, of the District of Columbia, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America to the Security Council of the United Nations.

*Susan E. Rice, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. LUGAR:

S. 282. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 283. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the conditions for the release of products from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve Ac-

count, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 284. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a new refundable credit for equipment used to manufacture solar energy property, to waive the application of the subsidized financing rules to such property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 285. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that reimbursements for costs of using passenger automobiles for charitable and other organizations are excluded from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 286. A bill to provide for marginal well production preservation and enhancement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 287. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the full deduction allowable with respect to income attributable to domestic production activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 288. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 289. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the taxable income limit on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas produced from marginal properties; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 290. A bill to repeal a requirement with respect to the procurement and acquisition of alternative fuels; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. BOND):

S. 291. A bill to provide for certain requirements related to the closing of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 292. A bill to repeal the imposition of withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 293. A bill to provide for a 5-year carryback of certain net operating losses and to suspend the 90 percent alternative minimum tax limit on certain net operating losses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 294. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the special allowance for property acquired during 2009 and to temporarily increase the limitation for expensing certain business assets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 295. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the quality and efficiency of the Medicare program through measurement of readmission rates and resource use and to develop a pilot program to provide episodic payments to organized groups of multispecialty and multi-level providers of services and suppliers for hospitalization episodes associated with select, high cost diagnoses; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 18. A resolution making majority party appointments to certain Senate committees for the 111th Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 19. A resolution making minority party appointments for the 111th Congress; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 4

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4, a bill to guarantee affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans, and for other purposes.

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to provide greater accountability of taxpayers' dollars by curtailing congressional earmarking, and for other purposes.

S. 225

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish programs to improve the quality, performance, and delivery of pediatric care.

S. 243

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 243, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements for gross income.

S. 256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to enhance the ability to combat methamphetamine.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, *supra*.

S. 274

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an incentive to hire unemployed veterans.

S. 281

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 281, a bill to promote labor force participation of older Americans, with the goals of increasing retirement security, reducing the projected shortage of experienced workers, maintaining future