

never set foot in my State, but he knew Alaska well. We are a State because of him, and others, including Secretary of State William Seward, who had vision and tenacity.

Senator Sumner was born on January 6, 1811, in Boston, MA. He was a lawyer, a professor, and then a politician. He was a man of purpose, principle, and many, many words and opinions. In fact, he was nearly caned to death while working in the Senate Chambers, by one of his colleagues—a congressman from the South—for expressing his opinions on the horrors of slavery. It was a deplorable act, and it cast a pall of shame over this body for years. Senator Sumner never really recovered, but after a long convalescence, he set his sights on the Alaska Purchase.

He was skeptical, at first, until Secretary of State Seward got his ear, and he immersed himself into the accounts of the promise of this new territory, which turned him into an ardent supporter. On April, 8, 1867, Senator Sumner, using only notecards, gave a 3-hour speech on the Senate floor about our State.

He spoke of Alaska's abundant resources. He saw the Pacific as the ocean of the future and argued that Alaska is the key to that future. He spoke of the treasures—the gold in our land, the veins of coal, our huge mineral deposits, and the treasures below the Arctic Ocean. He talked about the “multitudes of fish,” the thousands of acres of timber, and the opening of new trade routes.

He and others saw in Alaska the “Eden of the North”—a future which would entail up to 1 million self-sufficient Americans supported by the resources of the land. Owning Alaska would give us greater control of the next “great theater of action” in the Arctic and Asia-Pacific, for both national security and economic reason.

In the new territory of Alaska, “Commerce will find new arms; the country new defenders, the national flag new hands to bear it aloft,” Senator Sumner argued. A “boundless and glorious future,” awaits, he and other supporters argued.

Senator Sumner ended his epic 1867 speech by arguing that the whole territory, not just the peninsula, should be given the name by the people who lived here. “It should be indigenous, original, coming from the soil,” he said. “Alaska,” he concluded, “the great land.”

The day after Sumner's Senate speech, the once-skeptical U.S. Senate approved the purchase by a vote of 37 to 2. One hundred and fifty years later, Alaska has made good on that early promise. We have contributed enormous resources to our country. We are vital to our country's national defense, our national pride, and our economic growth. We still have the vision of Secretary of State Seward and Senator Sumner driving us toward a brighter future. Thanks to Senator Sumner and to the people of Massachusetts who

gave us such a brave leader—our honorary Alaskan of the Week.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1430. An act to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 34. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to “Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services”.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 1:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1431. An act to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1430. An act to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1431. An act to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 19. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to prepaid accounts under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act and the Truth in Lending Act.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 30, 2017, she had

presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 34. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to “Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services”.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 110. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-14).

S. 129. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-15).

S. 168. A bill to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation (Rept. No. 115-16).

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled “Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 114th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs” (Rept. No. 115-17).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled “Report on the Legislative Activities of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation During the 114th Congress” (Rept. No. 115-18).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Special Report entitled “Report on the Activities of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary During the 114th Congress” (Rept. No. 115-19).

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Rules and Administration:

Special Report entitled “Review of Legislative Activity During the 114th Congress” (Rept. No. 115-20).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 141. A bill to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-21).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Special Report entitled “Legislative Activities Report of the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, One Hundred Fourteenth Congress” (Rept. No. 115-22).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Sonny Perdue, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

By Mr. ALEXANDER for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

* R. Alexander Acosta, of Florida, to be Secretary of Labor.

* 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. HATCH:

S. 775. A bill to streamline the R-1 religious worker visa petition process; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 776. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation and regulation of marijuana products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BENNET, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 777. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow deductions and credits relating to expenditures in connection with marijuana sales conducted in compliance with State law; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. KING):

S. 778. A bill to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs and to facilitate information sharing among States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 779. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 780. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to reduce the gap between Federal and State marijuana policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 781. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HELLER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 782. A bill to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 783. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 784. A bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2017, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 785. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 786. A bill to establish a grant program relating to the prevention of student and student athlete opioid misuse; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 787. A bill to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the effect of including telehealth services in Medicare health care delivery reform models; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 788. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an independent review of the deaths of certain veterans by suicide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 789. A bill to exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 790. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to encourage innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 791. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. THUNE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 792. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish an H-2B temporary non-agricultural work visa program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 793. A bill to prohibit sale of shark fins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 794. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to improve the process whereby Medicare administrative contractors issue local coverage determinations under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 795. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 regarding dual or concurrent enrollment and

early college high schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. KING):

S. 796. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 797. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance matching grant program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 798. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program to apply to individuals pursuing programs of education while on active duty, to recipients of the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry scholarship, and to programs of education pursued on half-time basis or less, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 799. A bill to simplify and improve the Federal student loan program through income-contingent repayment to provide stronger protections for borrowers, encourage responsible borrowing, and save money for taxpayers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 800. A bill to protect taxpayers from liability associated with the reclamation of surface coal mining operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 104. A resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 105. A resolution recognizing 2017 as the 100th anniversary of the creation of the 41st Division; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 106. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to support the territorial integrity of Georgia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 107. A resolution congratulating the rifle team of West Virginia University on winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Rifle Championship; considered and agreed to.