

transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, a report relative to certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9049. A communication from the Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, a report relative to certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9050. A communication from the Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, a report relative to certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to Turkey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9051. A communication from the Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, a report relative to certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2593: An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-298).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

H.R. 371: A bill to expedite the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units in Laos.

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 1953: A bill to authorize leases for terms not to exceed 99 years on land held in trust for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians of the Guidiville Indian Rancheria.

H.R. 2484: A bill to provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the Community may be leased or transferred by the Community without further approval by the United States.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment and a preamble:

S. Res. 296: A resolution designating the first Sunday in June of each calendar year as "National Child's Day."

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 484: A bill to provide for the granting of refugee status in the United States to nationals of certain foreign countries in which American Vietnam War POW/MIAs or American Korean War POW/MIAs may be present, if those nationals assist in the return to the United States of those POW/MIAs alive.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

S. 1902: A bill to require disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act regarding certain persons and records of the Japanese Imperial Army in a manner that does not impair any investigation or prosecution conducted by the Department of Justice or cer-

tain intelligence matters, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committee were submitted:

Mr. HATCH, Mr. President, for the Committee on the Judiciary.

James J. Brady, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Mary A. McLaughlin, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Berle M. Schiller, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Richard Barclay Surrick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Petrese B. Tucker, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania retired.

(The above nominations 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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. REID, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2586. A bill to reduce the backlog in the processing of immigration benefit applications and to make improvements to infrastructure necessary for the effective provision of immigration services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2587. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the excise tax on heavy truck tires; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNETT:

S. 2588. A bill to assist the economic development of the Ute Indian Tribe by authorizing the transfer to the Tribe of Oil Shale Reserve Numbered 2, to protect the Colorado River by providing for the removal of the tailings from the Atlas uranium milling site near Moab, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 2589. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require periodic cost of living adjustments to the maximum amount of deposit insurance available under the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 2590. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROBB, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2591. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax credits for al-

ternative fuel vehicles and retail sale of alternative fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. EDWARDS):

S. 2592. A bill to establish a program to promote access to financial services, in particular for low- and moderate-income persons who lack access to such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. STEVENS:

S. 2593. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 2594. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with the Mancos Water Conservancy District to use the Mancos Project facilities for impounding, storage, diverting, and carriage of non-project water for the purpose of irrigation, domestic, municipal, industrial, and any other beneficial purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2595. A bill to amend chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, to authorize the General Accounting Office to take certain personnel actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 2596. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage a strong community-based banking system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2597. A bill to clarify that environmental protection, safety, and health provisions continue to apply to the functions of the National Nuclear Security Administration to the same extent as those provisions applied to those functions before transfer to the Administration; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ROBB, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2598. A bill to authorize appropriations for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CRAIG, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DEWINE, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2599. A bill to amend section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, and for other purposes; 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. GORTON (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. Res. 308. A resolution congratulating the International House on the occasion of its

75th anniversary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. REID, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2586. A bill to reduce the backlog in the processing of immigration benefit applications and to make improvements to infrastructure necessary for the effective provision of immigration services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing bipartisan legislation that, if enacted, will enable the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to cut through and eventually eliminate the unacceptably long backlogs in its processing of applications for naturalization, adjustment of status, and other immigration benefits.

I am pleased that Senators ABRAHAM, JEFFORDS, DEWINE, LEAHY, REID, MOYNIHAN, MIKULSKI, GRAHAM, and DURBIN have joined me as original cosponsors of this important bill.

All of us have heard the horror stories of the long delays in processing naturalization and immigration applications. What was once a 6-month process has now become a 3- to 4-year ordeal.

The "Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2000," which I am introducing today, would provide the Immigration and Naturalization Service with the direction and resources it needs to reduce the current immigration backlogs and hold it accountable to get the job done.

It is unacceptable that millions of people who have followed our nation's laws, made outstanding contributions to our nation, and paid the requisite fees have had to wait months—and in too many cases, years—to obtain the immigration services they need. The enormous delays in processing have had a negative impact on the reunification of spouses and minor children, and on businesses seeking to employ essential workers to help keep them globally competitive.

The fact is, there are many victims of an agency that is in dire need of a change in the way it does business. Today, it has become all too clear that the INS needs to re-engineer its adjudication process, which will require both additional resources and strong congressional direction and oversight.

The "Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvement Act" would enable millions of law-abiding residents, immigrants, and businesses, who have played by the rules and paid fees to the INS, to have their applications processed in a timely manner.

This bill evolved from discussions with immigration advocates, the busi-

ness community, State and local leaders, and the Administration. Specifically, this legislation would do three things.

First, it would create a separate "Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvement Account" ("Account") and authorize such sums as may be necessary to fund it.

This account would permit the INS to fund across several fiscal years infrastructure improvements, including additional staff, computer records management, fingerprinting, and nationwide computer integration. Moreover, it would pay for these infrastructure improvements through direct appropriations rather than through increased application fees.

Second, the "Immigration Services and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2000" would require the INS to put together a plan on how it will eliminate existing backlogs and report on this plan before it could access any of the funds.

In its report, the INS would be required to describe its current processing capabilities and detail its plans to eliminate existing backlogs in immigration benefit applications and petitions.

And third, it would require the Department of Justice to submit an annual, detailed report to Congress, including data on the number of naturalization applications and immigration petitions processed and adjudicated in each of the fiscal years following enactment of the act.

The act would also require the INS to report on the number of cases still pending in the naturalization, immigrant and nonimmigrant visa categories. In some cases this would involve a state-by-state or regional analysis of INS's progress in processing applications in a timely fashion.

In the past 7 years, 6.4 million people applied for U.S. citizenship—more than the previous 37 years combined. Today, INS faces a backlog of 1.3 million naturalization applications. Although the INS has put more resources into processing naturalization applications, this has come at the expense of processing other immigration-related applications, such as those for lawful permanent residence. At the beginning of this year, the INS had a pending caseload of 951,350 adjustment of status applications—an eightfold increase since 1994.

As a result, major cities continue to face tremendous delays in the processing of INS naturalization and immigrant applications. Five cities—Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Miami, and Chicago—handle 65 percent of the nation's naturalization workload.

By now, most of us are familiar with the numbers. Indeed, it would be easy for one to look at and decry the statistics reflecting the enormous number of backlogged applications. Instead, I come to floor of the Senate today to talk about the human cost of these backlogs and what I intend to do

through legislation to help the INS put itself on its proper course.

As one who represents California, a State that is number one among immigrant-receiving States, I have seen firsthand how families and businesses can be disproportionately affected by the smallest fluctuations in INS resources and services.

One out of every four Californians—about 8.5 million people—is foreign born. The average number of new immigrants to the State is more than 300,000 annually. Population growth of this magnitude is like adding a city the size of Anaheim, California each year.

The constant processing delays at the INS have had a tremendous impact on the ability of immigrants to naturalize, and seek services related to their application for green cards, work authorization, and family reunification.

On almost a daily basis, my office fields calls from people who have been waiting three or four years to naturalize or to adjust their status to that of lawful permanent resident. And this is after having paid a fee of \$225 per naturalization application, and \$220 for an adjustment of status application—per person. Imagine how much of an investment a family makes in order to play by the rules.

Applicants for these services are never really sure if their application is still in the process or lost, especially when the expected time for a fingerprint or interview notice comes and goes.

I have received numerous letters from constituents that vividly portray the human toil these backlogs have taken.

For example, one person wrote that he and his family have been in the country legally for more than 10 years. They filed their request for permanent residency at the right time. Their file, however, has moved so slowly within the INS that one of their sons is now about to "age out" of qualifying for permanent residence because he will turn 21 soon.

Just recently, I received a letter from a young student at Berkeley who filed a citizenship application in October 1996. She is still waiting to receive word from the INS on the correct status of her file.

She was told by the INS in January this year that it had closed her case in June 1999 without her knowledge or ability to address any concerns they might have had with her case. In fact, she was never told there were problems with her case.

Up until January, she had been told by the INS that she would be receiving her interview notice within six weeks. Unfortunately, six weeks became three years. Now, almost four years later, she has come to my office for assistance, wondering what she might have done to create this situation.

The fact is, like millions of others throughout the country, she is a victim of an agency that is in dire need of a change in the way it does business.