

March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9232. A communication from the Federal Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9233. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9234. A communication from the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9235. A communication from the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9236. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Agency For International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9237. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 11: A bill for the relief of Wei Jingsheng.
S. 150: A bill to the relief of Marina Khalina and her son, Albert Mifakhov.

S. 451: A bill for the relief of Saeed Rezaei.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1078: A bill for the relief of Mrs. Elizabeth Eka Bassey and her children, Emmanuel O. Paul Bassey, Jacob Paul Bassey, and Mary Idongesit Paul Bassey.

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

S. 1513: A bill for the relief of Jacqueline Salinas and her children Gabriela Salinas, Alejandro Salinas, and Omar Salinas.

S. 2019: A bill for the relief of Malia Miller.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Delmond J.H. Won, of Hawaii, to be a Federal Maritime Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2002.

J. Randolph Babbitt, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council for a term of three years.

Robert W. Baker, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council for a term of three years.

Geoffrey T. Crowley, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Federal Aviation Manage-

ment Advisory Council for a term of two years.

Robert A. Davis, of Washington, to be a Member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council for a term of two years.

Kendall W. Wilson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council for a term of one year.

Edward M. Bolen, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council for a term of two years.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I report favorably nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS of the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Coast Guard nominations beginning Jeffrey D. Kotson and ending Kimberly Orr, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 25, 2000.

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Julio F. Mercado, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

Beverly B. Martin, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Jay A. Garcia-Gregory, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

James L. Whigham, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Laura Taylor Swain, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Daniel G. Webber, Jr., of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Russell John Qualliotine, of New York, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of New York for the term of four years.

(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 Mr. GRAMM:

S. 2732. A bill to ensure that all States participating in the National Boll Weevil Eradication Program are treated equitably; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 2733. A bill to provide for the preservation of assisted housing for low income elderly persons, disabled persons, and other fami-

lies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

S. 2734. A bill to amend the United States Warehouse Act to authorize the issuance of electronic warehouse receipts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KERREY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2735. A bill to promote access to health care services in rural areas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 2736. A bill to provide compensation for victims of the fire initiated by the National Park Service at Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2737. A bill to amend the United States Grain Standards Act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to collect fees, extend the authorization of appropriations, and improve the administration of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2738. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reduce medical mistakes and medication-related errors; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. ROTH, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2739. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of a semipostal stamp in order to afford the public a convenient way to contribute to funding for the establishment of the World War II Memorial; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2740. A bill to provide for the establishment of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) that will allow individuals and families with limited means an opportunity to accumulate assets, to access education, to own their own homes and businesses, and ultimately to achieve economic self-sufficiency, and to increase the limit on deductible IRA contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERREY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2741. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to extend the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants for State mediation programs dealing with agricultural issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GORTON, Mr. HUTCHISON, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HELMS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MACK, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2742. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase disclosure for certain political organizations exempt from tax under section 527 and section 501(c), and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2743. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to develop an infrastructure for creating a national voluntary reporting system to continually reduce medical errors and improve patient safety to ensure that individuals receive high quality health care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2744. A bill to ensure fair play for family farms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2745. A bill to provide for grants to assist value-added agricultural businesses; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2746. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for investment by farmers in value-added agricultural property; 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. LAUTENBERG:

S. Con. Res. 123. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding manipulation of the mass and intimidation of the independent press in the Russian Federation, expressing support for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation, and calling on the President of the United States to express his strong concern for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 2732. A bill to ensure that all States participating in the National Boll Weevil Eradication Program are treated equitably; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION EQUITY ACT

• Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Boll Weevil Eradication Equity Act. Boll weevil infestation has caused more than \$15 billion worth of damage to the United States cotton crop, and the nation's cotton producers lose \$300 million annually. Texas is the largest cotton producing state in the nation, yet the scope of this problem extends beyond Texas. The ability of all states to eradicate this pest would stop future migration to boll weevil-free areas and prevent reintroduction of the boll weevil into those areas which have already completed a successful eradication effort.

We must continue to build upon the past success of the existing program that authorizes the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to join with individual states and provide technical assistance and federal cost-share funds. This highly successful partnership has resulted in complete boll weevil eradication in California, Florida, Arizona, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina. These

states received an average federal cost-share of 26.9 percent, with producers and individual states paying the remaining cost.

Since 1994, however, the program has expanded into Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Oklahoma and New Mexico, but the federal appropriation has remained relatively constant. The addition of this vast acreage has resulted in dramatically reducing the federal cost share to only 4 percent, leaving producers and individual states to fund the remaining 96 percent. This is not fair to the states now participating in the program because federal matching funds to the states enrolled in the early years of the program constituted almost 30 percent of eradication costs.

The National Cotton Council estimates that for every \$1 spent on eradication, cotton farmers will accrue about \$12 in benefits. The bill I am introducing today will authorize a federal cost share contribution of not less than 26.9 percent to the states and producers which still must contend with boll weevil infestation. I urge my colleagues to join this effort to ensure that these producers receive no less support than that which was provided during the earlier stages of the program.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2732

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Boll Weevil Eradication Equity Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) as of the date of enactment of this Act, infestation by *Anthonomus grandis* (commonly known as the "boll weevil") has caused more than \$15,000,000,000 in damage to cotton crops of the United States and costs cotton producers in the United States approximately \$300,000,000 annually;

(2) through the National Boll Weevil Eradication Program (referred to in this Act as the "program"), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture partners with producers to provide technical assistance and Federal cost share funds to States in an effort to eradicate the boll weevil;

(3) States that enrolled in the program before 1994 have since been able to complete boll weevil eradication and were provided a Federal cost share that accounted for an average of 26.9 percent of the total cost of eradication;

(4) States that enrolled in the program in or after 1994 account for 65 percent of the national cotton acreage and are now provided an average Federal cost share of only 4 percent, placing a tremendous financial burden on the individual producers;

(5) the addition of vast acreage into the program has resulted in an increased need for Federal cost share funds;

(6) a producer that participates in the program today deserves not less than the same level of commitment that was provided to

producers that enrolled in the program before 1994; and

(7) the ability of all States to eradicate the boll weevil would prevent further migration of the boll weevil to boll weevil-free areas and reintroduction of the boll weevil in those areas having completed boll weevil eradication.

SEC. 3. BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide funds to pay at least 26.9 percent of the total program costs incurred by producers participating in the program.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 2001 through 2004.●

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 2733. A bill to provide for the preservation of assisted housing for low income elderly persons, disabled persons, and other families; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS AND FAMILIES ACT

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise with great pride to introduce the Affordable Housing for Seniors and Families Act. I am very pleased to say that Senator KERRY of Massachusetts and Senator SARBANES are original co-sponsors of this bill.

Even as our national economy flourishes, many Americans are struggling to find safe, decent, sanitary, affordable housing. HUD estimates that 5.4 million families are either paying over half of their incomes for rent or living in substandard housing. Of these households, 1.4 million, or 26%, are elderly or disabled. The scarcity of affordable housing is particularly troubling for seniors and the disabled who may require special structural accommodations in their homes.

As Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, and as a member of the Aging Committee, I feel a heightened sense of urgency in helping these special populations find housing. Thus, I am pleased to offer a bill which: reauthorizes federal funding for elderly and disabled housing programs; expands supportive housing opportunities for these special populations; codifies options to enhance the financial viability of the projects; assists sponsors in offering a "continuum of care" that allows people to live independently and with dignity; offers incentives to preserve the stock of affordable housing that is at risk of loss due to prepayment, Section 8 opt-out, or deterioration; and modernizes current laws allowing the FHA to insure mortgages on hospitals, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes. Together, I believe these measures will help to fill the critical housing needs of elderly and disabled families.

On September 27, 1999, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Preserving Affordable Housing for Senior Citizens in the 21st Century Act (H.R. 202) by a vote of 405-5.