

Begich, succeeded Representative Pollock as Alaska's lone Member of the U.S. House.

In 1971, John became a legislative assistant to then-Senator Ted Stevens. His wise counsel to Senator Stevens would continue until Senator Stevens' tragic passing last year. John worked in Alaska on Native claims issues and as counsel to the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. The Commission didn't have a very sexy title, but it crafted important policy about the land management relations between the State and Federal Governments. From 1981 to 1983, John served as commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, arguably the most influential agency in Alaska State government. It oversees Alaska's 103 million acres of land and manages the resource base for our economy: oil and gas, mining, forestry, parks, and agriculture. In 1983, John was asked by then-Governor Bill Sheffield to move to Washington to direct the State's office here. It was a position in which he would serve seven different Alaska Governors, as varied politically as Alaska is richly diverse.

Democrats, Republicans, one Alaska Independent—all have relied heavily on John's encyclopedic knowledge of our State and his helping navigating the often choppy waters of Washington. Too often John's mission has been fighting against Federal encroachment into the lives of Alaskans. It is a battle we fight here every day. I, too, have relied on John's wisdom and insight, as mayor of our State's largest city, and now as I serve Alaska in this Chamber. After a distinguished career, John has cited what he called "the increased polarization and deterioration of the public policy process at the Federal level." He says it is the worst he has ever seen in nearly half a century of thankless public service. I am saddened by this turn of events and sad to agree with John about the state of our national discourse.

But I am heartened by John's dedication to the people of Alaska, to tirelessly working each and every day to educate non-Alaskans about the unique challenges and opportunities of our State. I also commend the contributions of John's longtime partner and wife, Sherry, and thank her for her sacrifice on behalf of Alaskans. John will be sorely missed as director of State and Federal relations for the State of Alaska. I only hope that he continues his distinguished service to Alaskans in the next phase of his life—and I wish him all the best.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 527. An act to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3010. An act to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents.

H.R. 3463. An act to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 527. An act to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3010. An act to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3463. An act to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1944. A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses, and for other purposes.

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-4171. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Grouper Management Measures" (RIN0648-BB22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on No-

vember 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4172. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Update to Information on the Effective Date of Atlantic Smoothhound Shark Fishery Management Measures" (RIN0648-BB43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4173. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XA802) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4174. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-BA66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4175. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 26 and Amendment 29 Supplement" (RIN0648-BB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4176. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments" (RIN0648-BB47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4177. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders" (RIN0648-XA803) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4178. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Temporary Removal of Herring Trip Limit in Atlantic Herring Management Area 3" (RIN0648-XA805) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4179. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Inseason

Action to Close the Commercial Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Fishery in the Atlantic Region" (RIN0648-XA781) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4180. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XA812) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4181. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions No. 5 Through No. 26" (RIN0648-XA551) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4182. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF6 Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-1151)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4183. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Thielert Aircraft Engines GmbH (TAE) Reciprocating Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0683)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4184. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 and 440) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0907)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4185. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Railroad Workplace Safety; Adjacent-Track On-Track Safety for Roadway Workers" (RIN2130-AB96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1940. An original bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to restore the financial solvency of the flood insurance fund, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-98).

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. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

S. 1940. An original bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to restore the financial solvency of the flood insurance fund, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1941. A bill to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1942. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve transportation for seniors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 1943. A bill to amend section 513 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to expedite the process for requesting de novo classification of a device; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1944. A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses, and for other purposes; read the first time.

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

S. 1945. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 1946. A bill to require foreign manufacturers of products imported into the United States to establish registered agents in the United States who are authorized to accept service of process against such manufacturers; 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. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 343. A resolution commemorating the 84th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5, 2011; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 25, a bill to phase out the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 707, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 806

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 806, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army to conduct levee system evaluations and certifications on receipt of requests from non-Federal interests.

S. 834

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 834, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve education and prevention related to campus sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to reduce disparities and improve access to effective and cost efficient diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer through advances in testing, research, and education, including through telehealth, comparative effectiveness research, and identification of best practices in patient education and outreach particularly with respect to underserved racial, ethnic and rural populations and men with a family history of prostate cancer, to establish a directive on what constitutes clinically appropriate prostate cancer imaging,