

schedule a time to consider bill S. 856 as soon as possible.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 which referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, 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. 2425. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve and reform the Medicare Program.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on today, October 20, 1994, by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND]:

S. 227. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide an exclusive right to perform sound recordings publicly by means of digital transmissions and for other purposes.

S. 268. An act to authorize the collection of fees for expenses for triploid grass carp certification inspections, and for other purposes.

S. 1111. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents on biotechnological processes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2425. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve and reform the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Finance.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on October 20, 1995, he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bills:

S. 227. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide an exclusive right to perform sound recordings publicly by means of digital transmissions, and for other purposes.

S. 268. An act to authorize the collection of fees for expenses for triploid grass carp certification inspections, and for other purposes.

S. 1111. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents on biotechnological processes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 929. A bill to abolish the Department of Commerce (Rept. No. 104-164).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. KYL):

S. 1346. A bill to require the periodic review of Federal regulations; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 1347. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for the vessel *Captain Daryl*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 1348. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for the vessel *Alpha Tango*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 1349. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for the vessel *Old Hat*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 1350. A bill to promote increased understanding of Federal regulations and increased voluntary compliance with such regulations by small entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN:

S. 1351. A bill to encourage the furnishing of health care services to low-income individuals by exempting health care professionals from liability for negligence for certain health care services provided without charge except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 1352. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make technical corrections in maps relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1353. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the transfer of certain Federal highway funds to a State highway safety program if a State fails to prohibit open containers of alcoholic beverages and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the passenger area of motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. Res. 187. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should vote on the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. KYL):

S. 1346. A bill to require the periodic review of Federal regulations; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE REGULATORY REVIEW ACT OF 1995

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Regulatory Review Act of 1995, which I introduce today on behalf of myself and Senators HEFLIN, LOTT, NICKLES, HUTCHISON, CRAIG, and KYL.

It is only common sense that the utility of a rule may change as circumstances change. Under current law, however, a rule enjoys eternal life unless the agency that promulgated it takes affirmative steps to terminate it. And in fact agencies rarely choose to burden themselves with the task of re-examining the rules they have promulgated. As a result, our rulebooks are littered with rules that are obsolete, inconsistent with other rules, or just plain unnecessary.

The weight of this heap of outdated rules rests most heavily on the small businesses of this country. Unlike larger firms, small businesses cannot spread the costs of regulation over a large quantity of output. Nor can they pass their regulatory headaches on to an accounting department, legal counsel, or human resources division. Instead, in case after case the entrepreneur himself must spend innumerable hours attempting to comply with the mandates of Federal regulators. It comes as no surprise, then, that problems relating to regulation and Government paperwork were the fastest growing areas of concern in a recent survey conducted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

The Regulatory Review Act would solve the problems caused by unnecessary rules. Under the act, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget would coordinate and supervise agency reviews of covered rules, which largely would be rules that impose annual costs of \$100 million or more. Covered rules not reviewed by the end of their review period would terminate. The duration of review periods under the act would be up to 7 years, plus a possible extension of 6 months. Finally, the act itself would sunset after 10 years.

There are several reasons why OIRA should be given supervisory authority over the regulatory review process. Obviously, the review process will involve determinations as to whether the rules