

As you know, the Armenian people of the Ottoman Empire were subjected to a ruthless, systematic and well-organized policy of deportation, confiscation of property, slave labor, denial of basic rights and, ultimately, murder. It is estimated that a million and a half Armenians eventually perished. The world recognized at the time that a crime against humanity had been committed. The United States condemned the brutal treatment of the Armenians and rendered humanitarian assistance to many of the survivors in the largest relief effort ever organized by this country.

This year, in a bi-partisan initiative, members of Congress will again call on you to reaffirm the Armenian Genocide as a crime against humanity. We believe there is a difference between using the word "massacres", rather than the word "genocide", to describe the systematic annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians. This is a distinction between a random series of atrocities and a methodical, ethnically-based policy of extermination. The historical record—much of it compiled from American sources—clearly indicates that the latter description reflects the truth.

Mr. President, the survivors and their descendants, who now number one million Americans, have not forgotten the Armenian Genocide. We again ask you to issue a clear and unambiguous statement reaffirming the Armenian Genocide as a crime against humanity.

At a time when the world is beset by problems, including acts of genocide, the United States cannot fail to send a unified message that can prevent future acts of inhumanity. Only by issuing such a statement can the United States convey to the world our nation's resolve and determination to prevent such crimes from recurring.

Sincerely,

Bob Dole, Olympia Snowe, Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Larry Pressler, Chuck Robb, Mike DeWine, Jesse Helms, Alfonso D'Amato, John Ashcroft, Frank R. Lautenberg, Joe Lieberman, Ted Kennedy, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Barbara Boxer, John F. Kerry, Claiborne Pell, Carl Levin, ———, Mark O. Hatfield, Bill Bradley, Spencer Abraham, Herbert Kohl, Dianne Feinstein, Paul Sarbanes, Carol Moseley-Braun, John Glenn.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 1772. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain interests in the Waihee Marsh for inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

H.R. 1836. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property in the town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 1965. An act to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2024. An act to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and provide for the efficient and cost-effective collection and recycling or proper disposal of used nickel cadmium batteries, small sealed lead-acid batteries, and certain other batteries, and for other purpose.

H.R. 2160. An act to authorize appropriations to carry out the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 and the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act.

H.R. 2660. An act to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 2679. An act to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 3049. An act to amend section 1505 of the Higher Education Amendment of 1986 to provide for the continuity of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

H.R. 3055. An act to amend section 326 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit continued participation by Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools in the grant program authorized by that section.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The following enrolled bill was signed by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

S. 735. An act to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, provide for an effective death penalty, and for other purposes.

At 12:36 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 joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.J. Res. 175. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 55. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of the bill S. 735, to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 6 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 175. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1772. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain interests in the Waihee Marsh for inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1965. An act to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2660. An act to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2679. An act to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3049. An act to amend section 1505 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the continuity of the Board of Trustees of

the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1836. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property in the town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2937. An act for the reimbursement of attorney fees and costs incurred by former employees of the White House Travel Office with respect to the termination of their employment in that Office on May 19, 1993.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 24, 1996, he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill.

S. 735. An act to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, provide for an effective death penalty, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2295. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Review of the Financial and Administrative Activities of the Boxing and Wrestling Commission for Fiscal Year 1995"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2296. A communication from the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Final Allocations of the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 1996 Budget"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2297. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2298. A communication from the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar years 1994 and 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2299. A communication from the Director of the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Statistical Confidentiality Act"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2300. A communication from the Director of the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act for calendar years 1992 and 1993; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2301. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2302. A communication from the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Chief Financial Officers Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2303. A communication from the U.S. Commissioner of the Delaware River Basin Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2304. A communication from the U.S. Commissioner of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2305. A communication from the Executive Director of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2306. A communication from the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2307. A communication from the Chair of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2308. A communication from the Employee Benefits Manager of the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual reports of federal pension plans for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2309. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Chief Financial Officers Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2310. A communication from the Office of Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2311. A communication from the Director of the Institute of Museum Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2312. A communication from the Executive Director of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2313. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of General Accounting Office reports and testimony for February 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2314. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2315. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of proposed regulations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2316. A communication from the Director of Audit Oversight and Liaison, General

Accounting Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the audit of the U.S. Government Printing Office's financial statements for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2317. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on direct spending or receipts legislation within five days of enactment; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, to the Committee on the Budget, and to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

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. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1697. A bill to amend the independent counsel statute to require that an individual appointed to be an independent counsel must agree to suspend any outside legal work or affiliation with a law firm until the individual's service as independent counsel is complete; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 1698. A bill entitled the "Health Insurance Reform Act of 1996"; read the first time.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1699. A bill to establish the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REID, and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 1700. A bill to reduce interstate street gang and organized crime activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PELL:

S. 1701. A bill to end the use of steel jaw leghold traps on animals in the United States, 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. BROWN (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. Res. 250. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding tactile currency for the blind and visually impaired; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LOTT:

S. Con. Res. 54. A concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of the bill S. 735, to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

S. Con. Res. 55. A concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of the bill S. 735, to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. HELMS, Mr. PELL, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Con. Res. 56. A concurrent resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1697. A bill to amend the independent counsel statute to require that an individual appointed to be an independent counsel must agree to suspend any outside legal work or affiliation with a law firm until the individual's service as independent counsel is complete; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL AMENDMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation on behalf of the distinguished Minority leader and myself that amends the independent counsel statute.

In my opinion recent events have made clear that Congress should review the statute providing for the appointment of an independent counsel. The specific problem that concerns me, and which my bill will address, is the perception that an independent counsel who continues to practice law and represent clients while serving as independent counsel opens himself or herself to charges of conflict of interest resulting from continued representation of private clients.

The bill I am introducing today amends the independent counsel statute to eliminate the possibility that such a conflict of interest will arise by requiring that, upon assuming the duties of independent counsel, an attorney refrain from representing clients until her duties as independent counsel have been completed. Additionally, my bill requires that the independent counsel not receive any compensation for affiliating with or being employed by an entity that provides professional legal services during the time of their service as independent counsel.

This bill would not apply to the current independent counsel investigating the Whitewater matter. It would only apply to independent counsels appointed after the effective date of this legislation.

Mr. President, as my friend and colleague from Arkansas, Senator PRYOR pointed out yesterday, the Washington Post reported that the current independent counsel, Mr. Starr, has retained the services of Sam Dash, former chief counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee and a noted scholar on issues relating to legal ethics to advise Mr. Starr on matters stemming from his continued affiliation with his law firm and continued representation of clients.

Setting aside for a moment the fact that Mr. Starr has seen fit to retain Mr. Dash on a part-time basis at a cost to the taxpayers of over \$166,000, it strikes many as a little odd, Mr. President, that an independent counsel has for the first time hired someone to advise him on what is ethical and what is not. It is my understanding from published reports in the Washington Post, the New Yorker, and other sources,