

Samoa in the Act of October 5, 1984; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1497. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1498. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Final Power Allocations of the Post-2000 Resources Pool" received on April 7, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1499. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "District Heating, Cooling, and Cogeneration: Benefits, Constraints, and Recommendations"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1500. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 545. A bill to provide for the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 546. A bill to implement the recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHINSON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ASHCROFT, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 547. A bill to provide for continuing appropriations in the absence of regular appropriations for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 548. A bill to expand the availability and affordability of quality child care through the offering of incentives to businesses to support child care activities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 549. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain cash rentals of farmland will not cause recapture of special estate tax valuation; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 550. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the gift tax exclusion to \$25,000; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 551. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to make modifications to certain provisions; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 552. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve family-held forest lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 553. A bill to regulate ammunition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 554. A bill to inform and empower consumers in the United States through a voluntary labeling system for wearing apparel or sporting goods made without abusive and exploitative child labor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 555. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require that at least 85 percent of funds appropriated to the Environmental Protection Agency from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund be distributed to States to carry out cooperative agreements for undertaking corrective action and for enforcement of subtitle I of that Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. HELMS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 556. A bill to provide for the allocation of funds from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 557. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to exclude beverage alcohol compounds emitted from aging warehouses from the definition of volatile organic compounds; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 558. A bill to provide for a study and report regarding the potential recruitment, hiring, or retention of qualified former officers of the Royal Hong Kong Police by Federal law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) (by request):

S. 559. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief to middle income families who are struggling to pay for college, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide significantly increased financial aid for needy students, provide universal access to postsecondary education, reduce student loan costs while improving student loan benefits, to streamline the Federal Family Education Loan Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 560. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide significantly increased financial aid for needy students, provide universal access to postsecondary education, reduce student loan costs while improving student loan benefits, to streamline the Federal Family Education Loan Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. SHELBY):

S.J. Res. 25. A joint resolution disapproving the rule of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration relating to occupational exposure to methylene chloride; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KERRY):

S. Res. 70. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding equal pay for equal work; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. ROBB, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Con. Res. 20. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the status of the investigation of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 545. A bill to provide for the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS REORGANIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce legislation to reorganize and restructure the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I am joined by Senators DOMENICI, DORGAN, and THOMAS as original cosponsors of this legislation.

This legislation is virtually identical to the bill that was approved by the Indian Affairs Committee and reported to the Senate on January 26, 1996. Unfortunately, the Congress did not complete action on that bill prior to the end of the 104th Congress. This legislation is intended to build on the agreements contained in last year's bill and stimulate further discussions in Congress and among the tribes about the many problems in the management and operation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I will not take the time of the Senate to reiterate the long history of efforts to reform the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Suffice it to say, after more than 150 years of proposals, reports, hearings, and other efforts, the Bureau of Indian Affairs remains a hindrance, not a help, to our Native American population.

Since 1824, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been the principal agency of the Federal Government which is responsible for meeting this nation's trust responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Yet, based on the health, social, and economic conditions on Indian reservations, the Bureau has failed miserably in carrying out its responsibilities.

Just take a brief look at the statistics on native American quality of life.

Nearly one of every three native Americans in this Nation lives in poverty, including half of the families and half of the children under the age of 6 living on Indian reservations.

Unemployment on Indian reservations exceeds 25 percent, and the per capita income for an Indian living on the reservation is \$4,478.