

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1866) to continue favorable treatment for need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the terrorist bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997.

## MEASURE REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the terrorist bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1998" (Rept. No. 105-74).

## 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:

S. 1152. A bill to establish a National Environmental Technology Achievement Award, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. FORD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERREY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROTH, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1153. A bill to promote food safety through continuation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program operated by the Secretary of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. MACK):

S. Con. Res. 51. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding elections for the legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1152. A bill to establish a National Environmental Technology Achievement Award, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I'm introducing legislation to establish a National Environmental Technology Achievement Award.

The annual award would be presented jointly by the EPA and the Department of Commerce to recognize our Nation's premier environmental technology advancement. Specifically, the award would recognize the major technological improvements in the prevention and cleanup of threats to the Nation's air, land, and water resources. The yearly prize would include a financial award to be raised from the private sector.

In order to achieve our Nation's environmental protection goals in the face of a growing population and expanding economy, we must develop more efficient and effective technologies to reduce and cleanup pollution, including advanced smokestack emission controls, improved water treatment systems, and manufacturing processes which reduce waste, just to name a few.

While the financial rewards for developing such technology are presumably large, a national award would provide additional incentive to innovators and would highlight the importance of such advancements to our Nation.

The bill would create a 14-member volunteer board to set the award criteria; design the award; establish a monetary prize; raise funds; develop a consideration and selection process; and select the annual recipient.

The board would be comprised of the Administrator of EPA, Secretary of Commerce, National Science Advisor, Director of the National Science Foundation, Secretary of the Interior, or their designees. In addition, the panel would include three representatives from academia; three representatives from industry; and three representatives from environmental and conservation organizations. One in each category would be chosen by the President, one by the Speaker of the House and one by the majority leader of the Senate.

The bill is supported by the Environmental Defense Fund, the National Parks, and Conservation Association; the World Wildlife Fund and other environmental groups. I urge my colleagues to support this simple, but I believe appropriate and helpful, initiative.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. FORD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERREY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROTH, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1153. A bill to promote food safety through continuation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program operated by the Secretary of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce important legislation providing for the permanent authorization of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank [FARAD] program. I am joined by 15 of my colleagues and I hope the Senate will pass this legislation very soon.

Mr. President, food safety has long been of tantamount importance to the veterinary profession and to the American consumer. Customers rightly expect that the food they purchase is of the highest quality. More importantly, consumers must know that the food they consume is safe. And our veterinarians work to help consumers in this endeavor. This legislation is designed to help Americans maintain their safe, wholesome food supply.

In 1982, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service undertook an educational effort to prevent chemical residues in food animal products. That same year, the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service [FSIS] sponsored a Residue Avoidance Program as a repository of residue avoidance information and educational materials.

FARAD was founded as a cooperative, multi-State effort by Drs. Stephen Sundlof of the University of Florida, Jim Riviere of North Carolina State University, Arthur Craigmiller of the University of California, Davis, and William Buck of the University of Illinois. Each investigator brought a unique expertise to the collaboration. Since that origin, FARAD has evolved into an expert-mediated residue avoidance decision support system which is crucial to food safety across the Nation.

FARAD provides an invaluable service to the animal health profession, helping veterinarians provide appropriate, science-based therapy—improving animal health while preventing food safety risks to consumers from residues. FARAD's computer-based decision support system is designed to provide livestock producers, pharmacists, and extension specialists with immediate access to practical information on drugs, pesticides, and environmental contaminants which hold the greatest potential for residue formation in livestock food products.

Since its inception, FARAD has published three handbooks and two practical software products, while maintaining a telephone hotline and an internet access site—all devoted to providing the information necessary to protect the livestock food system from contamination.

Through the USDA Extension Service, FARAD has received approximately \$200,000 per year since its inception. These funds have been awarded on the basis of competitive grants, relying