

Happy 100th birthday, BFA.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 a treaty, and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1875. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the mental health benefits parity provisions for an additional year.

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-5240. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5241. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to financial holding companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5242. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closure of the Commercial Fishery for King Mackerel in the Exclusive Economic Zone in the Western Zone of the Gulf of Mexico" received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5243. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Colorado: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL#7586-9) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5244. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, several documents related to the Agency's regulatory programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5245. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Pensions Plan, etc. Cost of Living

Adjustments for 2004" (Notice 2003-73) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5246. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update Notice" (Notice 2003-74) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5247. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bureau of Labor Statistics Price Indexes for Department Stores" (Rev. Rule 2003-121) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5248. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TD: Return of Partnership Income" (RIN1545-BC01) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5249. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CPI Adjustment for Section 7872(g) for 2004" (Rev. Rul. 2003-118) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5250. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Computation of Required Interest Using Mean Reserves" (Rev. Rul. 2003-120) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5251. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tax Exempt Bond Partnership Revenue Procedure" (Rev. Proc. 2003-84) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5252. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CPI Adjustment for Section 1274A for 2004" (Rev. Rul. 2003-119) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5253. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, a request to permit the use of Foreign Military Financing for the sale of 125 M1A1 ABRAMS tank kits for Egypt; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5254. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5255. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services sold under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5256. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Changes in Office of Personnel Management's Regulations" (RIN3206-AJ54) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5257. A communication from the Director, Workforce Compensation and Performance Service, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Regulations Locality-Based Comparability Payments" (RIN3206-AI81) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GREGG, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 720. A bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely effect patient safety (Rept. No. 108-196).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1136. A bill to restate, clarify, and revise the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (Rept. No. 108-197).

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 793. A bill to provide for increased energy savings and environmental benefits through the increased use of recovered mineral component in federally funded projects involving procurement of cement or concrete (Rept. No. 108-198).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 253. A resolution to recognize the evolution and importance of motorsports.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on the Judiciary.

James B. Comey, of New York, to be Deputy Attorney General.

*Michael J. Garcia, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

Federico Lawrence Rocha, of California, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of California for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. CRAIG (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 1868. A bill to authorize a 3-year demonstration program to recruit and train physicians to serve in rural settings; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1869. A bill for the relief of Robert Kuan Liang and Chun-Mei Hsu-Liang; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1870. A bill to establish an alternative trigger for determining if an extended benefit period is in effect for a State for purposes of certain benefits under the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 1871. A bill to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2004; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 1872. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Lord Robertson of Port Ellen; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. KERRY):

S. 1873. A bill to require employees at a call center who either initiate or receive telephone calls to disclose the physical location of such employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1874. A bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1875. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the mental health benefits parity provisions for an additional year; read the first time.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 50

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a guaranteed adequate level of funding for veterans health care, and for other purposes.

S. 417

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 417, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to ensure that coverage of bone mass measurements is provided under the health benefits program for Federal employees.

S. 419

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 419, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand coverage of bone mass measurements under part B of the medicare program to all individuals at clinical risk of osteoporosis.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms.

MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the required use of certain principal repayments on mortgage subsidy bond financings to redeem bonds, to modify the purchase price limitation under mortgage subsidy bond rules based on median family income, and for other purposes.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the investment of foreign earnings within the United States for productive business investments and job creation.

S. 664

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 664, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, to increase the rates of the alternative incremental credit, and to provide an alternative simplified credit for qualified research expenses.

S. 1143

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1143, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis C virus infection.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1195

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1195, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify that inpatient drug prices charged to certain public hospitals are included in the best price exemptions for the medicaid drug rebate program.

S. 1197

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1197, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure the safety and accuracy of medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments.

S. 1246

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct access to audiologists for medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

S. 1793

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1793, a bill to provide for college quality, affordability, and diversity, and for other purposes.

S. 1841

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1841, a bill to amend title 10, United States code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era.

S. 1856

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, as the "Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

S. RES. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 253, a resolution to recognize the evolution and importance of motorsports.

S. RES. 263

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 263, a resolution honoring the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. KERRY):

S. 1873. A bill to require employees at a call center who either initiate or receive telephone calls to disclose the physical location of such employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce today the "Call Center Consumer's Right to Know Act." This legislation is in response to the mounting evidence showing that U.S. corporations are rapidly shifting hundreds of thousands high-tech and service sector jobs abroad. Labor officials, business leaders, economists, elected officials and ordinary Americans are concerned that this bleeding