

MEASURES READ FOR THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4359. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the child tax credit.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that today, June 25, 2004, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2017. An act to designate the United States courthouse and post office building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Luis A. Ferre United States Courthouse and Post Office Building".

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2180. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain lands in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado (Rept. No. 108-285).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2243. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska (Rept. No. 108-286).

H.R. 1648. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution systems of the Cachuma Project, California, to the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District (Rept. No. 108-287).

H.R. 1732. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-288).

H.R. 3209. A bill to amend the Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 1972 to clarify the acreage for which the North Loup division is authorized to provide irrigation water under the Missouri River Basin project (Rept. No. 108-289).

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2479. A bill to amend chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for Federal employees to make elections to make, modify, and terminate contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund at any time, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-290).

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

Jackson McDonald, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea.

James D. McGee, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Madagascar.

Joyce A. Barr, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia.

June Carter Perry, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

R. Barrie Walkley, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Gabonese Republic, and to serve concurrently and * * *.

Cynthia G. Efirid, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Angola.

Christopher William Dell, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

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. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 2606. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1129

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1129, a bill to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 2016

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2016, a bill to provide for infant crib safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2088

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2088, a bill to restore, reaffirm, and reconcile legal rights and remedies under civil rights statutes.

S. 2109

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2109, a bill to provide for a 10-year extension of the assault weapons ban.

S. 2283

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2283, a bill to extend Federal funding for operation of State high risk health insurance pools.

S. 2498

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2498, a bill to provide for a 10-year extension of the assault weapons ban.

S. 2502

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2502, a bill to allow seniors to file their Federal income tax on a new Form 1040S.

S. 2603

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2603, a bill to amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) relating to the prohibition on junk fax transmissions.

S. CON. RES. 110

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 110, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of the ongoing work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in combating anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, discrimination, intolerance, and related violence.

S. RES. 311

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 311, a resolution calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3541

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3541 proposed to H.R. 4613, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 2606. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am joined today by Senators SARBANES,

SNOWE, BREAUX, BOXER and LAUTENBERG in introducing legislation to reauthorize a highly successful and collaborative program known as the National Estuary Program (NEP).

In 1987, Congress created the NEP to restore designated estuaries of national significance. Since 1987, the EPA estimates that the NEP has preserved, restored or created approximately 719,000 habitat acres, and has leveraged \$200 million in local, State and private sector funding, with an average leveraging ratio of 11 to 1. The NEP has accomplished this by fostering and maintaining strong partnerships among Federal, State and local governments, the private sector and local stakeholders, and by using a consensus, community-based approach with strong local control in developing and implementing their Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs).

Today, there are 28 estuaries in the NEP, covering more than 42 percent of the continental U.S. shoreline. Nearly half of the U.S. population resides in coastal areas, with thousands of new residents arriving every year. In the United States, estuaries provide habitat for three-quarters of America's commercial fish catch, and 80-90 percent of the recreational fish catch.

Estuarine-dependent fisheries are among the most valuable, with an estimated worth of \$1.9 billion nationwide. Coastal recreation and tourism generate an additional \$8 to \$12 billion annually. According to recent analyses by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), estuaries of the NEP employ 39 million people and support total economic output and employee wages estimated in the trillions. The tourism sector alone employs 1.2 million people and generates more than \$87 billion in expenditures.

Despite their economic and environmental importance, the Nation's estuaries are under increasing threat by the many competing demands placed upon them. Estuaries in the NEP face numerous challenges, including over-enrichment of nutrients, loss of habitat, declines in fish and wildlife, and introduction of invasive species, causing severe declines in water quality, living resources and overall ecosystem health. According to the recent EPA National Coastal Condition Report describing the ecological and environmental conditions of U.S. coastal waters and estuary resources, the overall condition of our Nation's coastal waters is fair to poor, and 44 percent of estuarine habitats are impaired for human or aquatic life use.

The NEP offers an effective means to deal with these national problems. The flexible and collaborative nature of the NEP has allowed the local Estuary Programs to develop innovative approaches to address the problems facing estuarine systems, approaches uniquely tailored to local environmental conditions, and to the needs of local communities and constituencies. At the same time, the national struc-

ture provided by the NEP has facilitated the sharing of management approaches, technologies, and ideas that underscore this program's success. Indeed, the National Commission on Ocean Policy highlighted the NEP's focus "on bringing together stakeholders in particular areas that are in or approaching a crisis situation." Additionally, the Commission found "the assessment and planning process used by the NEP holds promise for the future of ecosystem-based management."

Reauthorizing the NEP is an important step in the process of addressing the threats to the health and stability of our Nation's estuaries, which remain one of our Nation's most important economic and environmental resources. The legislation introduced today would reauthorize funding for the NEP at \$35 million annually to provide the funds necessary for this program to succeed into the future. I look forward to working with my colleagues on reauthorization of the NEP in the months ahead.

I ask by unanimous consent that the text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2606

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.

Section 320(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(i)) is amended by striking "2005" and inserting "2010".

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATION OF J. LEON HOLMES

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that at 9:45 a.m., on Tuesday, July 6, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 165, the nomination of J. Leon Holmes to be U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. I further ask consent that there then be 6 hours of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees; provided further that following that debate the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate. I further ask consent that following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 676, 711, 713, 714, 716, 717, 718, 719, 721, 722, 723,

724, 726, 728, 730, and all nominations on the secretary's desk.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

James Francis Moriarty, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Nepal.

Benjamin A. Gilman, of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Joseph D. Stafford III, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia.

Lewis W. Lucke, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

R. Niels Marquardt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

Charles P. Ries, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Suzanne Hale, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federated States of Micronesia.

William R. Brownfield, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Ralph Leo Boyce, Jr., of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand.