

Whereas the federal public debt now stands at approximately \$8.2 trillion, which equates to \$27,600 of debt for every man, woman, and child in America; and

Whereas the annual federal budget has risen to unprecedented levels, demonstrating an unwillingness or inability of both the legislative and executive branches of federal government to control the federal debt; and

Whereas fiscal discipline is a powerful means for strengthening our nation; with a constitutional provision requiring a federal balanced budget, less of America's financial resources would be channeled into servicing the national debt and more of our tax dollars would be available for public endeavors that reflect our national priorities, such as education, health, the security of our nation, and the creation of jobs; and

Whereas Thomas Jefferson recognized the importance of a balanced budget when he wrote: "The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it imposes is a question of such consequence as to place it among the fundamental principles of government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay for them ourselves."; and

Whereas state legislatures overwhelmingly recognize the necessity of maintaining a balanced budget; whether through constitutional requirement or by statute, 49 states require a balanced budget; and

Whereas in promoting the broadest principles of a government of, by, and for the people, one of the core functions of the United States Constitution is to enumerate and limit federal power; and

Whereas the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow involves decisions of such magnitude, with such potentially profound consequences for the nation and its people, today and in the future, that it is an appropriate subject for limitation by the United States Constitution; and

Whereas the United States Constitution vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove amendments to the Constitution with the people of the several states, as represented by their elected legislatures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the House of Representatives Concurring, that we hereby strongly urge the United States Congress to propose, adopt, and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget on an annual basis, except in times of extreme national emergency; and be it further

Resolved, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.

POM-392. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee relative to the "Constitution Restoration Act of 2005"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 158

Resolved by the Senate of the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That through passage of this resolution, this body hereby memorializes the United States Congress to enact S. 520 and H.R. 1070 of the 109th Congress, which bears the short title "Constitution Restoration Act of 2005", and by enacting such legislation protect the ability of the people of our state and nation to:

(1) Display the Ten Commandments in public buildings and public places in this state and nation;

(2) Express their faith in public;

(3) Retain God in the Pledge of Allegiance;

(4) Retain "In God We Trust" as our national motto; and

(5) Otherwise acknowledge God as the sovereign source of law, liberty, and government in these United States; and be it further

Resolved, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the United States House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate; and to each member of Tennessee's delegation to the United States Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2464. A bill to revise a provision relating to a repayment obligation of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation under the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-284).

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 2802. A bill to improve American innovation and competitiveness in the global economy (Rept. No. 109-285).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

S. 2703. A bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*James Lambright, of Mississippi, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2009.

*Linda Mysliwy Conlin, of New Jersey, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2009.

*J. Joseph Grandmaison, of New Hampshire, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2009.

*Geoffrey S. Bacino, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2013.

*Frederic S. Mishkin, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2000.

*Edmund C. Moy, of Wisconsin, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years.

By Mr. STEVENS for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Andrew B. Steinberg, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

*Mark V. Rosenker, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of two years.

*R. Hunter Biden, of Delaware, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of five years.

*Donna R. McLean, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of five years.

*John H. Hill, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (Ih) Gary T. Blore and ending with Rear Adm. (Ih) Joel R. Whitehead, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2006.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the Record of the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nomination beginning with Philip A. Gruccio and ending with Jamie S. Wasser, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 24, 2006.

By Mr. ENZI for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Lawrence A. Warder, of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education.

*Troy R. Justesen, of Utah, to be Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education.

*Harry R. Hoglander, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2008.

*Elizabeth Dougherty, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2009.

*Ronald S. Cooper, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a 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.

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. BOND:

S. 3685. A bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. AL-EXANDER):

S. 3686. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain AC electric motors; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3687. A bill to waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3688. A bill to preserve the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.