Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to reimburse Ed Edmondson and Henry Bellmon for the expenses which (1) were incurred by them or others on their direction as a result of and in connection with the Committee on Rules and Administration and by the Senate of the recent contested election for a seat in the Senate from the State of Oklahoma, and (2) the Committee on Rules and Administration finds were reasonable and necessary for the proper consideration by that committee and by the Senate of such contested election and were not reimbursed to them from any other source or paid by any other person.

Payments under this resolution shall be made from the Senate甫 upon vouchers approved by the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED FOR PRINTING

ENERGY INFORMATION ACT—S. 1864

AMENDMENT NO. 1435

(Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.)

Mr. HASSELM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 1864) to establish a National Energy Information Administration and a National Energy Information System, to authorize the Department of the Interior to undertake a survey of U.S. energy resources on the public lands and elsewhere, and for other purposes.

FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT

AMENDMENTS OF 1976—S. 3065

AMENDMENT NO. 1436

(Ordered to be printed and to lie on the table.)

Mr. MONDALE, Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Senator from Oregon, Mr. PADDY, the distinguished Senator from Illinois, Mr. STEVENSON, and the distinguished Senator from Tennessee, Mr. BAKER, who worked with me in drafting this proposal, I am introducing an amendment to the Federal Election Campaign reconstitution bill, which establishes a bicentennial commission on presidential nominations. We are pleased that we have been joined by an impressive list of co-sponsors—Mr. ABURR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BROOKE, Mr. CLARK, Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. DEMENT, Mr. DURKIN, Mr. GARY HART, Mr. PHILIP A. HART, Mr. HUFFLESTON, Mr. HUMPHREY, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McINTYRE, Mr. MUSKE, Mr. RANDOLPH, Mr. RUSCOFF, and Mr. SCHWEIKER.

We believe that the FEC reconstitution bill is the best—and perhaps the only—opportunity to enact this legislation early this year so that the Commission may get off to a prompt start, and report back with its findings and recommendations so that the Congress may act on them in advance of the 1980 elections.

As one who spent a full year actively seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, I have concluded that the manner in which we nominate and elect a President is badly in need of review.

Incredibly, there has never been a serious, fundamental and comprehensive review of our Presidential nominating process throughout our 200-year history. While in most areas they have proved to have unfailing wisdom and foresight, the framers of our Constitution did not realize that the system of electing our Chief Executive would evolve into a jumble of State laws, party regulations and unchallenged traditions with the political parties playing the major role in the selection of the President. There have been various attempts over the years to reform certain aspects of this process, but there has been no unified effort to resolve the system's shortcomings. The time for one is long overdue, and that is what this commission is intended to accomplish.

This bipartisan commission, whose 18 members would be appointed equally by the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the President, with the chairman of the two national parties serving as officials, would be asked to look into all aspects of the nominating process, including the manner in which States conduct Presidential primaries to select delegates to the national nominating conventions, State laws and rules of national political parties which govern the participation of voters and candidates in such primaries and caucuses, Presidential relations with the media, the relationship between the candidate for President and the media, alternative nominating systems including a national or regional primary system, and the manner in which candidates are nominated for the Vice Presidency.

The nominating process desperately needs a comprehensive review of these areas and their relationships to the others and which seeks to resolve the problems in a way consistent with clearly defined national goals. The present system of nominating Presidential candidates is close to anarchy. There are really 55 separate and different systems. This year 30 States will hold separate primaries, each without any real national primary—albeit in fragmented form—without ever having adopted it as a matter of national policy.

The attempts at reform thus far have included proposals for a national primary, regional primaries and variations of the presidential primary. But there has never been a national consensus on any single proposal for reform of this system. There is a consensus, however, among the cosponsors of this resolution—and many others throughout the country—that the entire system is badly in need of review.

There is always considerable interest in reforming the nominating process during a Presidential election year, but unfortunately this quickly fades after the conventions. But this interest is higher now than ever before, we fear the same thing might happen again.

The Commission we advocate would report back with its findings and recommendations in early 1977, giving Congress the unique and compelling opportunity to act well in advance of the 1980 elections.

Whatever alternative system may be recommended by this Commission and adopted by the Congress, we believe we can do much better than the present system. We also believe there is no more promising effort we could undertake in this Bicentennial Year than to try to improve one of the most important elements of our domestic process.

I ask unanimous consent that this amendment be printed in the Record.

The point of order having been sustained, the amendment was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1436

At the end of the bill, insert the following new title:

TITLE IV—COMMISSION TO STUDY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING PROCESS

DECLARATION OF POLICY

SEC. 401. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to improve the system of nominating candidates for election to the office of President of the United States by studying such system in a broad manner never before attempted in the two-hundred-year history of this Nation.

SEC. 402. (a) There is established the Bicentennial Commission on Presidential Nominations (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

(b) The Commission shall be composed of twenty members to be appointed as follows:

(1) six members shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, of whom at least two shall be Members of the Senate and at least two shall be elected or appointed State officials;

(2) six members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of whom at least two shall be Members of the House and at least two shall be elected or appointed State officials;

(3) six members shall be appointed by the President;

(4) two members shall be the Chairman of the two national political parties and shall serve as ex officio members.

(c) The remaining members shall be fewer than three members appointed under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (b) but are individuals who are of the same political affiliation.

(d) A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made, subject to the same limitations with respect to party affiliations as the original appointment.

(e) Twelve members shall constitute a quorum, but a majority may conduct hearings. The Chairman of the Commission shall be selected by the members from among the members, other than ex officio members.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 403. (a) The Commission shall make a full and complete investigation with respect to the President nominating process. Such investigation shall include but not be limited to a consideration of—

(1) the manner in which States conduct primaries for the nomination of candidates for election to the office of President of the United States and caucuses for the selection of delegates to the national convention;

(2) State laws and the rules of national
political parties which govern the participation of voters and candidates in such primaries and caucuses;

(3) the financing of campaigns for the nomination of candidates for election to the office of the President of the United States;

(4) the relationship between candidates for election to the office of the President of the United States and the news media, including how candidates achieve public recognition and whether such candidates should be guaranteed use of television media;

(5) the interrelationship of the elements described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this section;

(6) alternative nominating systems, including but not limited to a national or regional primary system for the expression of a preference for the nomination of candidates for the office of President of the United States and variations on the present nominating system; and

(7) the manner in which candidates are nominated for election to the office of Vice President of the United States.

(b) The Commission shall submit to the President and to the Congress such interim reports as are feasible, and not later than one year after the enactment of this resolution, a final report of its study and investigation based upon a full consideration of alternatives to our current Presidential nominating system, including an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of all such alternatives, together with recommendations as to the best system to establish for the 1980 Presidential elections. The Commission shall cease to exist sixty days after this report is submitted.

POWERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 404. (a) The Commission may, in carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution, sit and act at such times and places, hold such hearings, take such testimony, request the attendance of such witnesses, administer oaths, have such printing and binding done, and commission studies by any Federal agency or executive department, as the Commission deems advisable.

(b) Per diem and mileage allowances for witnesses requested to appear under the authority conferred by this section shall be paid from funds appropriated to the Commission.

(c) Subject to such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Commission, the chairman shall have the power to—

(1) appoint and fix the compensation of an executive director, and such additional staff employees as the chairman shall need, not in excess of one per diem and mileage employee for each member of the Commission and for each of the provisions of the Commission.

TIMELESSNESS OF APPOINTMENTS

Sec. 406. It is the sense of the Congress that the appointments of individuals to serve as members of the Commission be completed within ninety days after the enactment of this resolution.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 407. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 1437

(Ordered to be printed and to lie on the table.)

Mr. WEICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 3005), supra.

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND ACT OF 1976—H.R. 9721

AMENDMENT NO. 1438

(Ordered to be printed and to lie on the table.)

Mr. GLENN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 9721) to provide for increased participation by the United States in the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide for the entry of nonregional members and the Bahamas and Guyana in the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide for the participation of the United States in the African Development Fund, and for other purposes.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES’ POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ACT OF 1975—H.R. 8617

AMENDMENT NO. 1439

(Ordered to be printed and to lie on the table.)

Mr. TAFT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 8617) to restore to Federal civilian and Postal Service employees their rights to participate voluntarily, as private citizens, in the political processes of the Nation, to protect such employees from improper political solicitations, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1440

(Ordered to be printed and to lie on the table.)

Mr. BROOKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 8617), supra.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS OF AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT NO. 1414

At the request of Mr. Stone, the Senator from Florida (Mr. CHILES) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. NUNN) were added as cosponsors to amendment No. 1414 intended to be proposed to H.R. 8617, an act to restore to Federal civilian and Postal Service employees their rights to participate voluntarily, as private citizens, in the political processes of the Nation, to protect such employees from improper political solicitations, and for other purposes.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

Mr. MANSFIELD, Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. EASTLAND), I wish to announce that on March 17 and 18 the Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization will begin hearings on S. 3074, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The hearings will be held in room 2228 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, beginning at 10 a.m.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS ON IMPORTED MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS

Mr. ALLEN, Mr. President, the Subcommittee on Agricultural Research and General Legislation, of which I am chairman, will hear testimony on Thursday, March 18 on two bills relating to imported meat and dairy products.

The first is S. 288, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that imported meat and meat food products made in whole or in part of imported meat and dairy products be labeled “imported” at all stages of distribution until delivery to the ultimate consumer.

The other is S. 2598, a bill to require that imported dairy products, and meat and meat food products made in whole or in part of imported meat, be labeled “imported,” and to provide for inspection of imported dairy products to insure that they comply with certain minimum standards of sanitation.

The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing room, 322 Russell Senate Office Building. Persons wishing to testify should contact the Committee clerk at 224-2035 by Monday, March 15.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

Mr. MUSKIE, Mr. President, on March 17, 18, and 19, the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, Committee on Government Operations, will begin hearings on S. 2925, the Government Economy and Spending Reform Act of 1976.

Further hearings on the legislation are scheduled to be held on March 23, 24, 25, and April 6, 7, and 8.

Anyone wishing to submit testimony should call Mrs. Lucinda T. Dennis, chief clerk of the subcommittee on (202) 224-4718.

The following hearings will be held on March 17 and 18 will