This discussion is just beginning. I am glad that it will also involve other committees of the Senate, the NATO Observers' Group and the House of Representatives. Most important, I am glad it will involve the people of the United States. For the commitment a larger NATO entails will only be meaningful if the American people understand and accept it.

When these three new democracies join NATO in 1999, as I trust they will, it will be a victory for us all, Mr. Chairman. And on that day, we will be standing on the shoulders of many.

We will be thankful to all those who prosecuted the Cold War, to all those on both sides of the Iron Curtain who believed that the goal of containment was to bring about the day when the enlargement of our democratic community would be possible.

We will be grateful to all those who championed the idea of a larger NATO—not just President Clinton, or President Havel, or President Walesa, but members of Congress from both parties who voted for resolutions urging the admission of these three nations. We will owe a debt to the Republican members who made NATO enlargement part of their Contract with America.

Today, all of our allies and future allies are watching you for one simple reason. The American Constitution is unique in the power it grants to the legislative branch over foreign policy, especially over treaties. In this matter, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, you and the American people you represent are truly in the driver's seat.

That is as it should be. In fact, I enjoy going to Europe and telling our allies: ''This is what we want to do, but ultimately, it will be up to our Senate and our people to decide.'' I say that with pride because it tells them something about America's faith in the democratic process.

But I have to tell you that I say it with confidence as well. I believe we will stand together, Mr. Chairman, when the time comes for the Senate to decide, because I know that the policy we ask you to embrace is a policy that the Administration and Congress shaped together, and because I am certain that it advances the fundamental interests of the United States.

Thank you very much.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KENTUCKY FORD AND TOYOTA WORKERS

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I want to take just a moment today to talk about some hard working Kentuckians. Earlier this month marked the close of the 1997 year for car models. With that closing came the news that the Toyota Camry was the best-selling car in the United States and that Ford's F-Series trucks are the number one selling trucks in the nation for the 16th year in a row. Also at the top were the Ford Explorer as the number one sports utility vehicle and the Ranger as the number one compact pickup.

I'm proud to say that the number one car, truck and sports utility vehicle all have ''made in Kentucky'' stamped inside. The Camry is built in Georgetown and two of the Ford trucks—the F–250 and the F–350—along with both the Ranger and the Explorer, are all made in Louisville. About 80 percent of the Camrys sold in the nation come from Kentucky, while the Kentucky-made Ford trucks account for about 26 percent of the F-Series sales.

Behind those impressive sales figures are thousands of hard-working Kentuckians committed to doing the best job possible.

Their hard work not only put Toyota and Ford at the top of the charts, but their local communities and the state come out winners as well. A strong company with productive workers is a boost to the local economy and a successful plant is a powerful recruitment tool for the state.

Mr. President, number one sales mean a number one production team. I know I speak for my fellow Kentuckians when I say we're awfully proud of all the hard work that put the Toyota and Ford vehicles at the top.

Keep up the good work and know that you've made all Kentuckians proud.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in execution session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:02 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 report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2169) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

At 2:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 901. An act to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands.

At 6:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2607. An act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 901. An act to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following measure which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. 813. A bill to amend chapter 91 of title 18, United States Code to provide criminal penalties for theft and willful vandalism at national cemeteries.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measures were discharged from the Committee on Governmental Affairs and ordered placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1057. An act to designate the building in Indianapolis, Indiana, which houses the operations of the Circle City Station Post Office as the ''Andrew Jacobs, Jr. Post Office Building.''

H.R. 1058. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service under construction at 150 West Margaret Drive in Terre Haute, Indiana, as the ''John T. Myers Post Office Building.''

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2607. An act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

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. 105–104).

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 1278. An original bill to extend preferential treatment to certain products imported from Caribbean Basin countries (Rept. No. 105–105).

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

S. 660. A bill to provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105–106).

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Government Affairs, with amendments and an amendment to the title:

S. 207. A bill to review, reform, and terminate unnecessary and inequitable Federal subsidies (Rept. No. 105–107).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 10. A bill to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105–108).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1847. A bill to improve the criminal law relating to fraud against consumers.

S. 900. A bill to provide for sentencing enhancements and amendments to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines for offenses relating to the abuse and exploitation of children, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1024. A bill to make chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code permanent, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1149. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide for increased education funding, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1189. A bill to increase the criminal penalties for assaulting or threatening Federal judges, their family members, and other public servants, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Charles J. Siragusa, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Richard Conway Casey, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Ronald Lee Gilman, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Raymond C. Fisher, of California, to be Associate Attorney General.

James S. Gwin, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Algenon L. Marbley, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Dale A. Kimball, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' 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 time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROTH:

S. 1278. An original bill to extend preferential treatment to certain products imported from Caribbean Basin countries; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1279. A bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to provide for the transfer of services and personnel from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Office of Self-Governance, to emphasize the need for job creation on Indian reservations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1280. A bill to provide technical corrections to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to improve the delivery of housing assistance to Indian tribes in a manner that recognizes the right of tribal self-governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. CAMPBELL):

S. 1281. A bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to provide for the transfer of services and personnel from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Office of Self-Governance, to facilitate the creation of employment opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1282. A bill to provide for the establishment of the National Museum for the Peopling of America within the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BUMPERS (for himself, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 1283. A bill to award Congressional gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred collectively as the ''Little Rock Nine'' on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the integration of the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 1284. A bill to prohibit construction of any monument, memorial, or other structure at the site of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. MACK, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1285. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that married couples may file a combined return under which each spouse is taxed using the rates applicable to unmarried individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JEFFORDS:

S. 1286. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain amounts received as scholarships by an individual under the National Health Corps Scholarship Program; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1287. A bill to assist in the conservation of Asian elephants by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of Asian elephants and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of Asian elephants; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1288. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide duty-free treatment for certain in-line skates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. CAMPBELL):

S. 1289. A bill to temporarily decrease the duty on certain industrial nylon fabrics; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1290. A bill for the relief of Saeed Rezai; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 1291. A bill to permit the interstate distribution of State-inspected meat under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. BYRD, Mr. BURNS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BOND, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. FORD, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1292. A resolution disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on October 6, 1997, regarding Public Law 105–45; to the Committee on Appropriations, pursuant to the order of section 1025 of Public Law 93–344 for seven days of session.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1293. A bill to improve the performance outcomes of the child support enforcement program in order to increase the financial stability and well-being of children and families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JEFFORDS:

S. 1294. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the consolidation of student loans under the Federal Family Loan Program and the Direct Loan Program; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. CHAFEE, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. REED, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. ROBB):

S. Res. 133. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that every handgun sold in the United States should include a child safety device; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 134. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States