S. 416. A bill to require the application of the antitrust laws to major league baseball, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 417. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the eligibility of veterans for mortgage revenue bond financing; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CONRAD. (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 418. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to extend, improve, increase flexibility, and increase conservation benefits of the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HEFLIN:

S. Res. 78. A resolution to request the President to issue a proclamation designating February 16, 1995, as ''Haleyville, Alabama, Emergency 911 Day,'' and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MACK (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BOND, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. GRAMM):

S. Con. Res. 6. A concurrent resolution to express the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of the Treasury should submit monthly reports to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Banking and Financial Services of the House of Representatives concerning compliance by the Government of Mexico regarding certain loans, loan guarantees, and other assistance made by the United States to the Government of Mexico; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 399. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide more flexibility to producers, and more effective mitigation, in connection with the conversion of cropped wetland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

WETLANDS REFORM LEGISLATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, in 1985, as part of the farm bill, Congress enacted landmark legislation to protect America's wetlands. The swampbuster provision, as it is called, significantly reduced artificial incentives to drain agricultural wetlands.

In 1990, Congress reauthorized the farm bill. In the process, it evaluated problems that emerged from the implementation of the swampbuster provision and modified the law to meet those concerns.

It is now time for Congress to pass a new multiyear farm bill. Once again, this exercise provides an opportunity to address legitimate problems in wetlands policy.

Let me be clear. America's agricultural producers understand the need for wetlands conservation. Farmers accept that agricultural wetlands provide critical habitat for birds, animals and plants, and supply a mix of other benefits such as water storage, water purification and aesthetics that often decline when wetlands are altered.

But farmers are also rightfully concerned about the arbitrary way in which certain wetlands regulations are enforced by the USDA. And so am I.

I've spoken with farmers all across South Dakota who are deeply frustrated by the inflexibility of certain USDA wetlands regulations. I've heard horror stories about farmers who have been slapped with huge fines—ruinous fines—for unintentional and accidental violations of the law.

I've looked into many of these claims and found the complaints to be legitimate. Farmers have been penalized unfairly because of the inflexibility of agricultural wetlands policy. And some of the problems are a result of a lack of agreement between various Federal agencies regarding the intent of the swampbuster legislation.

The vast majority of farmers are doing everything they know how to preserve wetlands. They understand it is in their interest to do so. But no one can comply with regulations if they cannot understand them, or if the agencies responsible for enforcing them can't agree on policy.

The bill we are introducing today establishes a simpler, more flexible agricultural wetlands policy. It provides a reasonable, commonsense approach to real problems that farmers face while at the same time protecting our Nation's precious wetlands.

Our legislation addresses three major problems. First, it simplifies the rules under which farmers may mitigate wetlands.

Second, it reforms the penalty system to distinguish between inadvertent or accidental damage and willful destruction of wetlands.

And third, it provides farmers who voluntarily agree to conserve wetlands with a fair return from their land.

Under the current law, farmers are allowed to move and replace an existing wetland, but only if they agree to restore a wetland that had been drained prior to December 31, 1985. This process is called mitigation.

The new law extends this option to agricultural wetlands that are frequently farmed but were not drained before 1985. It will add flexibility for producers by giving them another option to choose from while still protecting valuable wetlands.

That's the first section of this bill.

The bill also makes a distinction between accidental and willful harm to wetlands. As many of you know, the penalties for wetlands violations—even minor violations—sometimes are so harsh that they can literally force farmers out of business. I spoke with one South Dakota farmer, for instance, who was going to be fined $97,000 because someone else had driven a tractor through a wetlands area on his farm without his knowledge or consent. The tractor had caused deep ruts and altered the condition of the wetland.

Fortunately, the USDA agreed to reduce the fine if the farmer restored the property to its original condition. However, he still had to pay a fine of $2,000 for a violation he did not commit.

This bill reduces the penalty for first-time violations if—and only if—the producer acted in good faith. Instead of being subjected to huge fines, the farmer would be required to restore the wetland to its former condition. The proposal would still deal firmly with repeat violators by subjecting them to graduated fines up to $10,000. And those who willfully destroy wetlands would face repayment of program benefits and expulsion from future farm programs.

Finally, this legislation gives farmers who voluntarily retire some of their acreage a fair return for their land by permitting them to enroll wetlands in the Federal Conservation Reserve Program. Farming is risky business that often operates on narrow profit margins. Farmers cannot afford to retire productive acreage without receiving some compensation.

Mr. President, our proposal is based on the original intent of the Swampbuster legislation, which was to encourage producers to do the right thing, not to drive them out of business. We can protect America's fragile wetlands without ruining producers financially or punishing them unjustly. The key is sensible, flexible regulations that motivate, rather than discourage, compliance. This legislation meets that test, and I hope that the appropriate congressional committees will give it timely and serious consideration.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 399

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

SECTION 1. CONVERSION OF CROPPED WETLAND.

(a) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 1222 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3822) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(2), by inserting after ''1985,'' the following: ''through the enhancement of cropped wetland described in section 1231(b)(4)(F), or through the creation of a wetland,''; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''may be reduced under paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''shall be waived'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) GRADUATED SANCTIONS.—In lieu of making a person ineligible under section 1221, the Secretary shall reduce by not less that $750 nor more than $10,000, depending on the degree to which wetland functions and values have been impaired by the violation

of section 1221, program benefits described in section 1221 that the person would otherwise be eligible to receive in a crop year if the Secretary determines that—

''(A) the person—

''(i) is actively restoring the wetland under an agreement entered into with the Secretary to fully restore the characteristics of the converted wetland to its prior wetland state; or

''(ii) has previously restored the characteristics of the converted wetland to its prior wetland state, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B) the Secretary determines that—

''(i) the penalty for violation of section 1221 has been waived under paragraph (1) for the person only once in the previous 10-year period on a farm of the person; and

''(ii) the person converted a wetland, or produced an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland, in good faith and without the intent to violate section 1221.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following;

''(4) AFFILIATED PERSONS—If a person is subject to a reduction in benefits under section 1221 or this section and the affected person is affiliated with other persons for the purpose of receipt of the benefits, the reduction in benefits of the affiliated persons under section 1221 or this section shall be in proportion to the interest held by the affected person.''.

(b) CONSERVATION RESERVE.—Section 1231(b)(4) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) if the crop land is a wetland on which the owner or operator of a farm or ranch uses normal cropping or ranching practices to produce an agricultural commodity in a manner that is consistent for the area where the production is possible as a result of a natural condition, such as drought, and is without action by the producer that destroys a natural wetland characteristic.''.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. GRAMM):

S. 400. A bill to provide for appropriate remedies for prison conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE STOP TURNING OUT PRISONERS ACT

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I have introduced a bill today called the STOP Act. The purpose of the STOP Act is to keep our Federal courts from taking over State prisons. Many States today are operating at over 100 percent capacity. In my State of Texas, however, the Federal courts have ruled in the Ruiz case that on any given day 6,100 beds, 14 percent of total space available in Texas, are vacant. This Ruiz settlement has forced many of our State prisons to maintain a permanent vacancy rate of 11 percent.

What has happened, Mr. President, is that there has been release of violent criminals early. They are serving an average of 2 months for every year of their sentence in my State to comply with a ruling that is patently unreasonable.

This is actually a compromise. This bill will curb the ability of Federal courts to take over the policy decisions of State prisons, particularly when they do not have any responsibility to pay for these added costs. A massive construction program in Texas that will be completed within the next year will give the State of Texas an official prison capacity of 146,000. But if we could eliminate the effect of this case, we could add 6,000 more people who would serve their sentences and would not be going out on the streets of Texas murdering, raping, and injuring the people of my State.

In fact, Mr. President, I have to say that one of my friends from college, a wonderful person, was murdered by one of these early-release prisoners. It was a stunning thing to happen. Unfortunately, that was not the only time it has happened in my State.

Our present system today is operating and constructing prisons with a budget of $3.75 billion and is expected to grow to $4.4 billion for the next 2-year period beginning September 1 of this year. What we are going to try to do with this bill is pare back the ability of Federal judges to substitute their judgment for that of State governments who are required to keep the people safe and also, of course, to keep the prisoners in prison. It is their job to pay for it; it is their job to implement criminal law in their States.

The bill will set out the right for prisoners to live as comfortably as possible. But that will not be more important than the right of the victims, the right of the people to live safely in their neighborhoods. It is a matter of prioritizing what the rights are.

I think it is very important that we speak to this issue, and I am very proud that the House of Representatives has already done so. Congressman BILL ARCHER sponsored this bill in the House and has put it on as an amendment to a bill that will be coming to the Senate shortly. I think it is important that I have introduced the bill today, because what has happened in my State is so stark and we are spending billions on prisons because of this onerous decision which was not appealed. I had urged that it be appealed but it was not. So we are building these extra prisons because of a ruling that I think could have been appealed and would have been overturned at the appellate level. It will give standing to local officials and State government officials to step in on a case when they think that the Federal courts have gotten out of line.

We need relief and many other States in this country need relief. After all, the Federal prisons are operating at approximately 160 percent of capacity. Yet, in my State, it is lower than 90 percent capacity. We certainly need those extra beds. What has happened is, of course, our counties are burgeoning with prisoners that they cannot send up to the State prison system because there is no space under this onerous ruling. So I have introduced this bill today. I hope we can get swift enactment and, most especially, I hope if the bill comes over from the House, that we will be able to make sure that is also in the Senate bill.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 401. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the excise tax treatment of hard apple cider; to the Committee on Finance.

HARD APPLE CIDER TAX TREATMENT LEGISLATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am introducing tax legislation designed to stimulate the apply industry in the United States. I am pleased that my friend from Vermont, Senator JEFFORDS, is joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

In recent years, hard apple cider or apple cider with an alcohol level at or below 7 percent has emerged as a popular alternative to beer. Current tax law, however, unfairly taxes hard apple cider at a much higher rate than beer despite the two beverages similar alcohol levels. The bill I am introducing today will correct this inequity.

Present law taxes hard apple cider regardless of its alcohol level as a wine, subject to a tax of $1.07 per wine gallon. My legislation would clarify that hard apple cider containing not more than a 7-percent alcohol level be taxed as beer, subject to a tax of approximately 22.6 cents per gallon. The legislation would continue taxing small domestic producers of hard apple cider at a reduced rate.

I believe this small tax change would allow hard apple cider producers to compete fairly with beermakers. As hard apple cider grows in popularity, applegrowers and processors across the country should prosper because hard apple cider is made from culled apples, the least marketable apples. I have received letters from the Vermont Department of Agriculture, the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, the Maine Department of Agriculture, and the New York Apple Association in support of this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask for unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 401

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF TAX TREATMENT OF HARD APPLE CIDER.

(a) HARD APPLE CIDER CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN 7 PERCENT ALCOHOL TAXED AS BEER.—Subsection (a) of section 5052 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to definitions) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) BEER.—For purposes of this chapter (except when used with reference to distilling or distilling material)—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'beer' means beer, ale, porter, stout, and other similar fermented beverages (including saké or similar products) of any name or description containing one-half of 1 percent or more of alcohol by volume brewed or produced from malt, wholly or in part, or from any substitute therefor.

''(2) HARD APPLE CIDER.—The term 'beer' includes a beverage—

''(A) derived wholly (except for sugar, water, or added alcohol) from apples containing at least one-half of 1 percent and not more than 7 percent of alcohol by volume, and

''(B) produced by a person who produces more than 100,000 wine gallons of such beverage during the calendar year.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 5041 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to imposition and rate of tax) is amended by striking ''wine)'' and inserting ''wine, but not including hard apple cider described in section 5052(a)(2))''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 402. A bill to provide for the appointment of one additional Federal district judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE WISCONSIN FEDERAL JUDGESHIP ACT OF 1995

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I introduce the Wisconsin Federal Judgeship Act of 1995, which would create an additional Federal judgeship for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and situate it in Green Bay, where a district court is crucially needed. Let me explain how the current system hurts—and how this additional judgeship will help—businesses, law enforcement agents, witnesses, victims, and individual litigants in northeastern Wisconsin.

The four full-time district court judges for the Eastern District of Wisconsin currently preside in Milwaukee. Yet for most litigants and witnesses in northeastern Wisconsin, Milwaukee is well over 100 miles away. Thus, litigants and witnesses must incur substantial costs in traveling from northern Wisconsin to Milwaukee—costs in terms of time, money, resources, and effort. Indeed, driving from Green Bay to Milwaukee takes nearly 2 hours each way. Add inclement weather or a departure point north of Green Bay—such as Oconto or Marinette—and the driving time alone often results in witnesses traveling for a far longer period of time than they actually spend testifying.

Moreover, Mr. President, as is the case all across America, Federal crimes are on the rise in northeastern Wisconsin. These crimes range from bank robbery and kidnapping to Medicare and Medicaid fraud. The trials for these crimes are held in Milwaukee, requiring victims and witnesses to travel a substantial amount of time, and passing on to the taxpayers the expenses for transportation, board, and housing.

Mr. President, many manufacturing and retail companies are located in northeastern Wisconsin. These companies often require a Federal court to litigate complex price-fixing, contract, and liability disputes with out-of-State businesses. But the sad truth is that many of these cases are never filed—precisely because the northern part of the State lacks a Federal court.

Prosecuting cases on the Menominee Indian Reservation causes specific problems that alone justify a Federal judge in Green Bay. Under current law, the Federal Government is required to prosecute all felonies committed by Indians that occur on the Menominee Reservation. The reservation's distance from the Federal prosecutors and courts—more than 150 miles—makes these prosecutions problematic. And because the Justice Department compensates attorneys, investigators, and sometimes witnesses for travel expenses, the existing system costs all of us.

Mr. President, the creation of an additional judgeship in the Eastern District of Wisconsin is clearly justified on the basis of caseload. In 1994 the Judicial Conference, the administrative and statistical arm of the Federal judiciary, recommended the creation of additional Federal judgeships in 16 different judicial districts. In determining where to place these judges, the Conference looked primarily at ''weighted filings,'' that is, the total number of cases filed per judge modified by the average level of case complexity. In 1994, new positions were justified where a district's workload exceeded 430 weighted filings per judge. On this basis, the Eastern District of Wisconsin clearly merits an additional judgeship: it tallied more than 435 weighted filings in 1993 and averaged 434 weighted filings per judge between 1991–93. In fact, though our bill would not add an additional judge in the Western District of Wisconsin, we could make a strong case for doing so because the average weighted filings per judge in the Western District was almost as high as in the Eastern District.

Mr. President, this legislation is simple, effective, and straightforward. It creates an additional judgeship for the Eastern District, requires that one judge hold court in Green Bay, and gives the Chief Judge of the Eastern District the flexibility to designate which judge holds court there. And this legislation would increase the number of Federal district judges in Wisconsin for the first time since 1978. During that period, more than 252 new Federal district judgeships have been created nationwide, but not a single one in Wisconsin.

And don't take my word for it, Mr. President, ask the people who would be most affected: each and every sheriff and District Attorney in northeastern Wisconsin urged me to create a Federal district court in Green Bay. I ask unanimous consent that a letter from these law enforcement officials be included in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks. I also ask unanimous consent that a letter from the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Tom Schneider, also be included. This letter expresses the support of the entire Federal law enforcement community in Wisconsin—including the FBI, the DEA, and the BATF—for the legislation I am introducing. Perhaps most importantly, the people of Green Bay also agree on the need for an additional Federal judge, as the endorsement of my proposal by the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce demonstrates.

In conclusion, Mr. President, having a Federal judge in Green Bay will reduce costs and inconvenience while increasing judicial efficiency. But most importantly, it will help ensure that justice is more available and more affordable to the people of northeastern Wisconsin. As the courts are currently arranged, the northern portion of the Eastern District is more remote from a Federal court than any other major population center, commercial or industrial, in the United States. For these sensible reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and its House companion, H.R. 362, introduced by my good friend Representative TOBY ROTH.

We hope to enact this measure, either separately or as part of an omnibus judgeship bill the Judiciary Committee may consider later this Congress.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and additional material be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 402

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Wisconsin Federal Judgeship Act of 1995''.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Wisconsin.

(c) TABLES.—In order that the table contained in section 133 of title 28, United States Code, shall reflect the change in the total number of permanent district judgeships authorized under subsection (a), such table is amended by amending the item relating to Wisconsin to read as follows:

''Wisconsin:

''Eastern	5
''Western	2''.

(d) HOLDING OF COURT.—The chief judge of the eastern district of Wisconsin shall designate 1 judge who shall hold court for such district in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

AUGUST 8, 1994.

Senator HERB KOHL,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KOHL: We are writing to urge your support for the creation of a Federal District Court in Green Bay. The Eastern District of Wisconsin includes the 28 eastern-most counties from Forest and Florence Counties in the north to Kenosha and Walworth Counties in the south.

Green Bay is central to the northern part of the district which includes approximately one third of the district's population. Currently, all Federal District Judges hold court in Milwaukee.

A federal court in Green Bay would make federal proceedings much more accessible to the people of northern Wisconsin and would alleviate many problems for citizens and law enforcement. Travel time of 3 or 4 hours each way makes it difficult and expensive for witnesses and officers to go to court in Milwaukee. Citizen witnesses are often reluctant to travel back and forth to Milwaukee. It often takes a whole day of travel to come to court and testify for a few minutes. Any lengthy testimony requires an inconvenient and costly overnight stay in Milwaukee. Sending officers is costly and takes substantial amounts of travel time, thereby reducing the number of officers available on the street. Many cases are simply never referred to federal court because of this cost and inconvenience.

In some cases there is no alternative. For example, the Federal government has the obligation to prosecute all felony offenses committed by Indians on the Menominee Reservation. Yet the Reservation's distance from the Federal Courts and prosecutors in Milwaukee poses serious problems. Imagine the District Attorney of Milwaukee being located in Keshena or Green Bay or Marinette and trying to coordinate witness interviews, case preparation, and testimony.

As local law enforcement officials, we try to work closely with other local, state and federal agencies, and we believe establishing a Federal District Court in Green Bay will measurably enhance these efforts. Most important, a Federal Court in Green Bay will make these courts substantially more accessible to the citizens who live here.

We urge you to introduce and support legislation to create and fund an additional Federal District Court in Green Bay.

Gary Robert Bruno, Shawano and Menominee County District Attorney.
Jay Conley, Oconto County District Attorney.
John DesJardins, Outagamie County District Attorney.
Douglas Drexler, Florence County District Attorney.
Guy Dutcher, Waushara County District Attorney.
E. James FitzGerald, Manitowoc County District Attorney.
Kenneth Kratz, Calumet County District Attorney.
Jackson Main, Jr., Kewaunee County District Attorney.
David Miron, Marinette County District Attorney.
Joseph Paulus, Winnebago County District Attorney.
Gary Schuster, Door County District Attorney.
John Snider, Waupaca County District Attorney.
Ralph Uttke, Langlade County District Attorney.
Demetrio Verich, Forest County District Attorney.
John Zakowski, Brown County District Attorney.
William Aschenbrener, Shawano County Sheriff.
Charles Brann, Door County Sheriff.
Todd Chaney, Kewaunee County Sheriff.
Michael Donart, Brown County Sheriff.
Patrick Fox, Waushara County Sheriff.
Bradley Gehring, Outagamie County Sheriff.
Daniel Gillis, Calumet County Sheriff.
James Kanikula, Marinette County Sheriff.
Norman Knoll, Forest County Sheriff.
Thomas Kocourek, Manitowoc County Sheriff.
Robert Kraus, Winnebago County Sheriff.
William Mork, Waupaca County Sheriff.
Jeffrey Rickaby, Florence County Sheriff.
David Steger, Langlade County Sheriff.
Kenneth Woodworth, Oconto County Sheriff.
Richard Awonhopay, Chief, Menominee Tribal Police.
Richard Brey, Chief of Police, Manitowoc.
Patrick Campbell, Chief of Police, Kaukauna.
James Danforth, Chief of Police, Oneida Public Safety.
Donald Forcey, Chief of Police, Neenah.
David Gorski, Chief of Police, Appleton.
Robert Langan, Chief of Police, Green Bay.
Michael Lien, Chief of Police, Two Rivers.
Mike Nordin, Chief of Police, Sturgeon Bay.
Patrick Ravet, Chief of Police, Marinette.
Robert Stanke, Chief of Police, Menasha.
Don Thaves, Chief of Police, Shawano.
James Thome, Chief of Police, Oshkosh.

U.S. ATTORNEY,
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN,
Milwaukee, WI, August 9, 1994.

To the District Attorney's, Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Urging the Creation of a Federal District Court in Green Bay:

Thank you for your letter of August 8, 1994, urging the creation of a Federal District Court in Green Bay. You point out a number of facts in your letter:

(1) Although ⅓ of the population of the Eastern District of Wisconsin is in the northern part of the district, all of the Federal District Courts are located in Milwaukee.

(2) A federal court in Green Bay would be more accessible to the people of northern Wisconsin. It would substantially reduce witness travel time and expenses, and it would make federal court more accessible and less costly for local law enforcement agencies.

(3) The federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over most felonies committed on the Menominee Reservation, located approximately 3 hours from Milwaukee. The distance to Milwaukee is a particular problem for victims, witnesses, and officers from the Reservation.

I have discussed this proposal with the chiefs of the federal law enforcement agencies in the Eastern District of Wisconsin, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Secret Service, U.S. Marshal, U.S. Customs Service, and Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division. All express support for such a court and give additional reasons why it is needed.

Over the past several years, the FBI, DEA, and IRS have initiated a substantial number of investigations in the northern half of the district. In preparation for indictments and trials, and when needed to testify before the Grand Jury or in court, officers regularly travel to Milwaukee. Each trip requires 4 to 6 hours of round trip travel per day, plus the actual time in court. In other words, the agencies' already scarce resources are severely taxed. Several federal agencies report that many cases which are appropriate for prosecution are simply not charged federally because local law enforcement agencies do not have the resources to bring these cases and officers back and forth to Milwaukee.

Nevertheless, there have been a substantial number of successful federal investigations and prosecutions from the Fox Valley area and other parts of the Northern District of Wisconsin including major drug organizations, bank frauds, tax cases, and weapons cases.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of Wisconsin holds hearings in Green Bay, Manitowoc, and Oshkosh, all in the northern half of the district. For the past four years approximately 29% of all bankruptcy filings in the district were in these three locations.

In addition, we continue to prosecute most felonies committed on the Menominee Reservation. Yet, the Reservation's distance from the federal courts in Milwaukee poses serious problems. A federal court in Green Bay is critically important in the federal government is to live up to its moral and legal obligation to enforce the law on the Reservation.

In summary, I appreciate and understand your concerns and I join you in urging the creation of a Federal District Court in Green Bay.

THOMAS P. SCHNEIDER,
U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Wisconsin.●

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. INOUYE, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 403. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the organization and administration of the Readjustment Counseling Service, to improve eligibility for readjustment counseling and related counseling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

THE READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1995

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, in behalf of myself and Senators DASCHLE, WELLSTONE, INOUYE, and JEFFORDS, I am today reintroducing legislation I offered in the last Congress that would make numerous improvements in the organization, policies, and programs known as the vet center program. The Readjustment Counseling Service Amendments of 1995 is similar to legislation I introduced in the 103d Congress, S. 1226, the Readjustment Counseling Service Amendments of 1994, which the Senate unanimously approved last March. The bill I am introducing today is in fact identical to S. 1226 as reported by the Veterans' Affairs Committee on November 3, 1993.

As my colleagues know, vet centers are storefront, community-based centers operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA] that, in an informal, user-friendly environment, offer counseling services to returned Vietnam-era veterans and post-Vietnam combat veterans. Since the program was first authorized in 1979, it has grown from 87 facilities to 202 today, operating in all 50 States. Together, these centers have helped more than 1.1. million veterans successfully readjust to civilian life, including 94,686 last year. In the process, the vet center program has established leadership in such areas as post-traumatic stress disorder, homelessness, disaster assistance, sexual trauma, alcohol and substance abuse, suicide prevention, the physically disabled, and minority veterans.

The Readjustment Counseling Service Amendments of 1995 attempts to ensure that the program remains viable, relevant, and responsive to the needs of today's veterans. It hopes to accomplish these goals by achieving two general aims. On the one hand, it would preserve that which is best in the vet

center program by codifying and improving its organizational structure and those administrative practices which have hitherto made the program uniquely effective. On the other hand, it would enhance the ability of vet centers to undertake new challenges by expanding eligibility to new categories of veterans and encouraging VA to explore the potential of vet center-based health care and benefits services.

Specifically, my legislation would: Codify the current organizational structure of RCS and require that funding for the program be specifically identified in the budget; raise the director of RCS to the Assistant Chief Medical Director level; expand eligibility for Vet Center services to all combat veterans, regardless of period of service, and authorize services for all other veterans on a resource-available basis; authorize bereavement counseling provided through vet centers for the families of veterans who died in combat, and authorize such counseling to survivors of veterans who died of other service-related causes on a resource-available basis; establish a statutory Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans; require VA to develop a plan to assign additional employment, training, and benefit counselors at vet centers; require a report on the feasibility and desirability of collocating vet centers and VA outpatient clinics; and, undertake a pilot program authorizing the provision of limited, primary health care services at veteran centers.

Mr. President, the provisions of my bill have been variously endorsed by the major veterans service organizations, RCS field staff, and the Department itself at hearings on S. 1226 conducted by the Veterans' Affairs Committee during the last Congress. Indeed, the full Senate effectively endorsed the provisions of the bill I am offering today when it passed S. 1226 early last year. I hope that Senators will once again express support for the preserving and improving the unique vet center program by cosponsoring and supporting enactment of this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 403

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Readjustment Counseling Service Amendments of 1995''.

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7305 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph (7):

''(7) A Readjustment Counseling Service.''.

(b) ORGANIZATION.—The Readjustment Counseling Service shall have the organizational structure and administrative structure of that service as such structures were in existence on January 1, 1993.

(c) REVISION OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not alter or revise the organizational structure or the administrative structure of the Readjustment Counseling Service until—

(A) the Secretary has submitted to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing a full and complete statement of the proposed alteration or revision; and

(B) a period of 60 days has elapsed after the date on which the report is received by the committees.

(2) In the computation of the 60-day period under paragraph (1)(B), there shall be excluded any day on which either House of Congress is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 3 calendar days to a day certain.

(d) BUDGET INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SERVICE.—Each budget submitted to Congress by the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall set forth the amount requested in the budget for the operation of the Readjustment Counseling Service in the fiscal year covered by the budget and shall set forth separately the amount requested for administrative oversight of the activities of the service (including the amount requested for funding of the Advisory Committee on Readjustment of Veterans).

SEC. 3. DIRECTOR OF THE READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICE.

(a) DIRECTOR.—Section 7306(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out ''and'' at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting in lieu thereof ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) one shall be a person who (A)(i) is a qualified psychiatrist, (ii) is a qualified psychologist holding a diploma as a doctorate in clinical or counseling psychology from an authority approved by the American Psychological Association and has successfully undergone an internship approved by that association, (iii) is a qualified holder of a master in social work degree, or (iv) is a registered nurse holding a master of science in nursing degree in psychiatric nursing or any other mental-health related degree approved by the Secretary, and (B) has at least 3 years of clinical experience and 2 years of administrative experience in the Readjustment Counseling Service or other comparable mental health care counseling service (as determined by the Secretary), who shall be the director of the Readjustment Counseling Service.''.

(b) STATUS OF DIRECTOR.—Section 7306(a)(3) of such title is amended by striking out ''eight'' and inserting in lieu thereof ''nine''.

(c) ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENT.—The Director of the Readjustment Counseling Service shall report to the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs through the Associate Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Programs.

SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND CERTAIN RELATED COUNSELING SERVICES.

(a) READJUSTMENT COUNSELING.—(1) Subsection (a) of section 1712A of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a)(1)(A) Upon the request of any veteran referred to in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the Secretary shall furnish counseling to the veteran to assist the veteran in readjusting to civilian life.

''(B) A veteran referred to in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph is any veteran who—

''(i) served on active duty during the Vietnam era; or

''(ii) served on active military, naval, or air service in a theater of combat operations (as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense) during a period of war or in any other area during a period in which hostilities (as defined in subparagraph (D) of this paragraph) occurred in such area.

''(C) Upon the request of any veteran other than a veteran referred to in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the Secretary may furnish counseling to the veteran to assist the veteran in readjusting to civilian life.

''(D) For the purposes of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the term 'hostilities' means an armed conflict in which the members of the Armed Forces are subjected to danger comparable to the danger to which members of the Armed Forces have been subjected in combat with enemy armed forces during a period of war, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

''(2) The counseling referred to in paragraph (1) shall include a general mental and psychological assessment of a covered veteran to ascertain whether such veteran has mental or psychological problems associated with readjustment to civilian life.''.

(2) Subsection (c) of such section is repealed.

(b) OTHER COUNSELING.—Such section is further amended by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c)(1) The Secretary shall provide the counseling services described in section 1701(6)(B)(ii) of this title to the surviving parents, spouse, and children of any member of the Armed Forces who is killed during service on active military, naval, or air service in a theater of combat operations (as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense) during a period of war or in any other area during a period in which hostilities (as defined in subsection (a)(1)(D) of this section) occurred in such area.

''(2) The Secretary may provide the counseling services referred to in paragraph (1) to the surviving parents, spouse, and children of any member of the Armed Forces who dies while serving on active duty or from a condition (as determined by the Secretary) incurred in or aggravated by such service.''.

(c) AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT FOR COUNSELING SERVICES.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended by striking out ''subsections (a) and (b)'' each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof ''subsections (a), (b), and (c)''.

SEC. 5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE READJUSTMENT OF VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1712B the following:

''§ 1712C. Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans

''(a)(1) There is in the Department the Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Committee').

''(2) The Committee shall consist of not more than 18 members appointed by the Secretary from among veterans who—

''(A) have demonstrated significant civic or professional achievement; and

''(B) have experience with the provision of veterans benefits and services by the Department.

''(3) The Secretary shall seek to ensure that members appointed to the Committee

include persons from a wide variety of geographic areas and ethnic backgrounds, persons from veterans service organizations, and women.

''(4) The Secretary shall determine the terms of service and pay and allowances of the members of the Committee, except that a term of service may not exceed 2 years. The Secretary may reappoint any member for additional terms of service.

''(b)(1) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, consult with and seek the advice of the Committee with respect to the provision by the Department of benefits and services to veterans in order to assist veterans in the readjustment to civilian life.

''(2)(A) In providing advice to the Secretary under this subsection, the Committee shall—

''(i) assemble and review information relating to the needs of veterans in readjusting to civilian life;

''(ii) provide information relating to the nature and character of psychological problems arising from service in the Armed Forces;

''(iii) provide an on-going assessment of the effectiveness of the policies, organizational structures, and services of the Department in assisting veterans in readjusting to civilian life; and

''(iv) provide on-going advice on the most appropriate means of responding to the readjustment needs of veterans in the future.

''(B) In carrying out its duties under subparagraph (A), the Committee shall take into special account veterans of the Vietnam era, and the readjustment needs of such veterans.

''(c)(1) Not later than March 31 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the programs and activities of the Department that relate to the readjustment of veterans to civilian life. Each such report shall include—

''(A) an assessment of the needs of veterans with respect to readjustment to civilian life;

''(B) a review of the programs and activities of the Department designed to meet such needs; and

''(C) such recommendations (including recommendations for administrative and legislative action) as the Committee considers appropriate.

''(2) Not later than 90 days after the receipt of each report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall transmit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a copy of the report, together with any comments and recommendations concerning the report that the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(3) The Committee may also submit to the Secretary such other reports and recommendations as the Committee considers appropriate.

''(4) The Secretary shall submit with each annual report submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 529 of this title a summary of all reports and recommendations of the Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous annual report of the Secretary submitted pursuant to that section.

''(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the activities of the Committee under this section.

''(2) Section 14 of such Act shall not apply to the Committee.''.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1712B the following:

''1712C. Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans.''.

(b) ORIGINAL MEMBERS.—(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2) of section 1712C of such title (as added by subsection (a)), the members of the Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Vietnam and Other War Veterans on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be the original members of the advisory committee recognized under such section.

(2) The original members shall so serve until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs carries out appointments under such subsection (a)(2). The Secretary shall carry out such appointments as soon after such date as is practicable. The Secretary may make such appointments from among such original members.

SEC. 6. PLAN FOR EXPANSION OF VIETNAM VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a plan for the expansion of the Vietnam Veteran Resource Center program established pursuant to the amendment made by section 105 of the Veterans' Administration Health-Care Amendments of 1985 (Public Law 99–166; 99 Stat. 944). The plan shall include a schedule for, and an assessment of the cost of, the implementation of the program at or through all Department of Veterans Affairs readjustment counseling centers.

(2) The Secretary shall submit the plan not later than 4 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''Department of Veterans Affairs readjustment counseling centers'' has the same meaning given the term ''center'' in section 1712A(i)(1) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 7. REPORT ON COLLOCATION OF VET CENTERS AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINICS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the feasibility and desirability of the collocation of Vet Centers and outpatient clinics (including rural mobile clinics) of the Department of Veterans Affairs as current leases for such centers and clinics expire.

(2) The Secretary shall submit the report not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) COVERED MATTERS.—The report under this section shall include an assessment of the following:

(1) The results of any collocation of Vet Centers and outpatient clinics carried out by the Secretary before the date of the enactment of this Act, including the effects of such collocation on the quality of care provided at such centers and clinics.

(2) The effect of such collocation on the capacity of such centers to carry out their primary mission.

(3) The extent to which such collocation will impair the operational independence or administrative integrity of such centers.

(4) The feasibility of combining the services provided by such centers and clinics in the course of the collocation of such centers and clinics.

(5) The advisability of the collocation of centers and clinics of significantly different size.

(6) The effect of the locations (including urban and rural locations) of the centers and clinics on the feasibility and desirability of such collocation.

(7) The amount of any costs savings to be achieved by Department as a result of such collocation.

(8) The desirability of such collocation in light of plans for the provision of health care services by the Department under national health care reform.

(9) Any other matters that the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 8. VET CENTER HEALTH CARE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program for the provision of health-related services to eligible veterans at readjustment counseling centers. The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in accordance with this section.

(b) SERVICES.—(1) In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall provide the services referred to in paragraph (2) at not less than 10 readjustment counseling centers in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The Secretary shall provide basic ambulatory services and health care screening services by such personnel as the Secretary considers appropriate at each readjustment counseling center under the pilot program. The Secretary shall assign not less than one-half of a full-time employee equivalent at each such center in order to provide such services under the pilot program.

(3) In determining the location of the readjustment counseling centers at which to provide services under the pilot program, the Secretary shall select centers that are located in a variety of geographic areas and that serve veterans of a variety of economic, social, and ethnic backgrounds.

(c) PERIOD OF OPERATION.—(1) The Secretary shall commence the provision of health-related services at readjustment counseling centers under the pilot program not later than 4 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The pilot program shall terminate 2 years after the date on which the Secretary commences the provision of services under paragraph (1).

(d) REPORT.—(1) The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program established under this section. The report shall include the following:

(A) A description of the program, including information on—

(i) the number of veterans provided basic ambulatory services and health care screening services under the pilot program;

(ii) the number of such veterans referred to Department of Veterans Affairs general health-care facilities in order to provide such services to such veterans; and

(iii) the cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs of the pilot program.

(B) An analysis of the effectiveness of the services provided to veterans under the pilot program.

(C) The recommendations of the Secretary for means of improving the pilot program, and an estimate of the cost to the Department of implementing such recommendations.

(D) An assessment of the desirability of expanding the type or nature of services provided under the pilot program in light of plans for the provision of health care services by the Department under national health care reform.

(E) An assessment of the extent to which the provision of services under the pilot program impairs the operational or administrative independence of the readjustment counseling centers at which such services are provided.

(F) An assessment of the effect of the location of the centers on the effectiveness for the Department and for veterans of the services provided under the pilot program.

(G) Such other information as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) The Secretary shall submit the report not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) The term ''Department of Veterans Affairs general health-care facility'' has the meaning given such term in section 1712A(i)(2) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term ''eligible veteran'' means any veteran eligible for outpatient services under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 1712(a) of such title.

(3) The term ''readjustment counseling center'' has the same meaning given the term ''center'' in section 1712A(i)(1) of such title.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 406. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that a monthly insurance benefit thereunder shall be paid for the month in which the recipient dies to the recipient's surviving spouse, subject to a reduction of 50 percent in the last monthly payment if the recipient dies during the first 15 days, to the Committee on Finance.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRO-RATE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to correct an inequity that exists in our Social Security system.

Currently, when a Social Security beneficiary dies, his or her last monthly benefit check must be returned to the Social Security Administration. This provision often causes problems for the surviving spouse because he or she is unable to financially subsidize the expenses accrued by the late beneficiary in their last month of life.

Current law makes an inappropriate assumption that a beneficiary has not incurred expenses during his or her last month of life. I know that my colleagues have heard, as have I, from constituents who lost a husband or wife toward the end of the month, received the Social Security check and spent all or part of it to pay the bills and then received a notice from Social Security that the check must be returned. For many of these people, that check was the only income they had and they are left struggling to find the money to pay back the Social Security Administration and pay the rest of the expenses their spouse incurred in their last month.

Therefore, my legislation would allow the spouse of the beneficiary who dies in the first 15 days of the month to receive one half of his or her spouse's regular benefits, and the spouse of the beneficiary who dies in the latter half of the month to receive the full monthly benefit.

I believe this is a fair and direct approach to an unfair situation. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.●

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 407. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction from gross income for home care and adult day and respite care expenses of individual taxpayers with respect to a dependent of the taxpayer who suffers from Alzheimer's disease or related organic brain disorders; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 408. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives relating to the closure, realignment, or downsizing of military installations; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 409. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow defense contractors a credit against income tax for 20 percent of the defense conversion employee retraining expenses paid or incurred by the contractors; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 410. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the dependent care credit refundable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

DEFENSE CONVERSION LEGISLATION

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I introduce a package of legislation that will guide the Federal Government in a role that is becoming more and more important to communities across America—defense conversion. In today's economic climate, the American people are demanding greater accountability for every dollar spent, so that even as we reduce spending we do so wisely, and in a way that does not compromise our Nation's economic security. The legislation I will introduce today will help the Federal Government live up to its defense conversion responsibilities by reassigning and consolidating coordination of our efforts to the Executive Office of the President; providing tax credits for training and defense conversion efforts, and ensuring that economic development tools are available first to communities and industries hardest-hit by defense base closings.

With the end of the cold war and the disintegration of the Soviet military threat to Western Europe, the new environment of international security makes it possible to reduce the level of defense spending. I believe that any defense reductions must be made, however, in a careful and thoughtful manner because we must keep in mind the unrest in regions from Bosnia to Chechnya has threatened this fragile peace.

I believe that sound defense planning must be focused on the level of military capability this Nation would need in wartime. While an austere defense posture may seem adequate in peacetime, even a limited international crisis can upset these perceptions almost overnight.

It has been more than 5 years since the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the end of the cold war. The dramatic change in superpower relations has permitted the United States to make significant cuts in defense spending. That has led to a debate about how much to cut from the defense budget, and along with many of my colleagues, I believe that defense spending has been cut too much, too fast. Since 1987, the Defense Department's procurement budget has been cut by 47 percent. This will be the 12th year in a row that inflation-adjusted defense spending has declined, and the first year that defense spending was exceeded by another area of America's budget, spending on entitlements and human services.

Even as we reduce the defense budget, however, the Federal Government still has a responsibility to help the industries, communities, and individuals adversely affected by these drastic cuts in defensespending and by the closure or major realignment of military installations across the country. The challenges of successful defense conversion are enormous. And as we address these enormous challenges, we must provide the economic policies, tools, and incentives needed to stimulate both the economy and defense conversion initiatives.

My home State of Maine has endured a great deal of hardship brought on by cuts in defense spending. Defense-related enterprises in Maine span the spectrum of defense activities, ranging from the large Brunswick Naval Air Station and Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, to smaller bases such as Cutler Naval Telecommunications Station and the Listening Station at Winter Harbor. Maine is also proud of the numerous large and small private companies that do business with the Pentagon. These range from the State's largest private employer—Bath Iron Works—to smaller firms such as Saco Defense and Fiber Materials.

And we must not forget the hundreds of subcontractors and vendors that do business with these bases and companies. It is these smaller firms that are often overlooked when defense conversion is discussed. The fact is that defense-related jobs reach into every county in my home State of Maine. Every one of those jobs is important—military or civilian, large company or small. And whether in Maine or across the Nation, defense-related industries provide good jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers.

The closure of Loring Air Force Base this past September 30 exemplifies the defense conversion challenge facing Maine. Loring's closing resulted in the loss of nearly 20 percent of the employment, 14 percent of the income, and about 17 percent of the population of Aroostook County. At the other end of the State, Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has seen its workforce cut almost in half since the fall of the Berlin Wall, from over 8,000 employees to just 4,100. And Bath Iron Works has seen its employment drop from a peak of 12,000 to just under 9,000 as a result of cuts in the defense budget. These stark numbers graphically illustrate the importance of successful defense conversion to the long-term health of Maine's economy.

Successful defense conversion does not happen overnight, and this legislation reflects that understanding. We

must also realize that successful defense conversion cannot be imposed from the top down by the Federal Government. Instead, the Federal Government must work with industries and communities in crafting defense conversion strategies and options that can help those same industries and communities in their efforts to overcome the severe economic consequences of defense downsizing.

The Department of Defense has always been the dominant government agency involved in defense conversion. Yet virtually every one of its defense conversion programs were imposed upon it by either the President or the Congress, not designed by the Pentagon itself.

My legislation proposes to change this relationship, and consolidates responsibility for most of the Federal Government's defense conversion activities squarely where it belongs: within the Executive Office of the President. Companion legislation that I am introducing today would also, in effect, establish a defense conversion czar, a high-level executive official who is directly responsible to the President for the implementation and coordination of this critical effort.

The simple fact of the matter is that of all the agencies within the Federal Government, the Defense Department is institutionally unsuited to direct such a crucial government venture. The central purpose of the Defense Department is to provide, equip and train the military forces needed to ensure the security of the Nation, to deter war, and to fight and win wars if deterrence fails. These institutional goals run counter to the basic premise of defense conversion—to help people, communities, and industries become less dependent on defense spending.

A report issued last year by the General Accounting Office underscored that the Pentagon and defense conversion are fundamentally mismatched. That GAO report cited an evaluation by the Defense Department's own Inspector General of the department's defense conversion programs. After closely examining one of those programs, the inspector general found that ''ineffective planning and oversight had resulted in implementation problems.''

Implementation problems. I don't believe that the working people of Maine who depend on wise defense conversion for their jobs and livelihood will understand implementation problems. I don't believe that the communities of Maine and America will tolerate implementation problems. This is why we must consider the advice of the congressional mandated Defense Conversion Commission, which 3 years ago took a hard look at the Federal Government's defense conversion efforts. Along with other Members of Congress whose State and districts have a big stake in the success of defense conversion efforts, I appeared before the Commission, and closely followed its findings.

In its final report, the Commission made an even stronger case for decreasing the influence of the Defense Department. The Commission noted that:

> While the Department of Defense has a large role to play, overall direction for defense conversion and transition actions must come from the Executive Office of the President.

I agree with the Commission's conclusion.

The legislation I am introducing today will consolidate America's defense conversion efforts within the Executive Office of the President—a step that, based on this sort of unequivocal report, should have been taken long ago. The thousands of Maine workers who depend on defense-related industries for their livelihoods, the millions of Americans who are watching our actions today, and indeed, all of our citizens need to know that the Federal Government will wisely consider conversion efforts. Americans should know that one individual, reporting directly to the President, is responsible for the effective implementation and coordination of our overall defense conversion strategy.

I have long believed that tax credits can provide an excellent incentive to encourage economic development and growth. Two of the bills that I am introducing today utilize this concept. The first provides tax credits to help give employers the inventive to hire workers who have lost their jobs through either the closure of a military installation or from reductions-in-force at a military installation. It will also provide those same tax credits to employers who have hired laid off workers from a defense contractor or major subcontractor. The second bill will provide tax credits to defense-dependent industries to invest in worker retraining and retooling in order to help them diversify into commercial markets.

Finally, the Economic Development Administration [EDA] within the Department of Commerce is actively involved in numerous successful defense conversion efforts throughout the country. The legislation I am introducing today amends the fiscal year 1991 Defense Authorization Act, which has served as the guidance for the EDA's defense conversion duties when utilizing funds authorized in defense bills.

Under current law, the EDA does not give any special preference to defense conversion projects. This legislation specifically directs that, when funds are authorized for use by the EDA through the Defense Authorization Act, the EDA will ''ensure that [these] funds are reserved for communities identified as the most substantially and seriously affected by the closure or realignment of a military installation or the curtailment, completion, elimination, or realignment of a major defense contract or subcontract.''

Mr. President, defense conversion ultimately boils down to another form of economic development—albeit one which affects the livelihoods of millions of Americans. Our mission is to ensure that the Federal Government makes successful defense conversion a reality. We must give our citizens the tools they need to literally turn swords into plowshares. While this will take a great deal of time and hard work, I believe that a partnership between private enterprise and government will make it a reality. The legislation that I introduce today will help move that effort along. As I said on the Floor of the House in 1991, our responsibilities to the American people do not end with the base closure process. Instead, our responsibilities are only beginning.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this package of legislation to ensure sound defense conversion policies into the future.●

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 411. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of long-term care insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

THE LONG-TERM CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, long-term care means different things to different people. It means home-health care for those who need some help, but do not require round-the-clock care. It means respite care so those families who are struggling to keep a loved one at home can have a short break and some time to themselves. And it means nursing home care for those in need of institutional services.

As we continue the debate on health care reform this year, it is important that we all remember that any major reform of our health care system will be incomplete if it does not address some of the problems facing our long-term care system. I am introducing legislation today that addresses four areas that are in need of change: setting standards for private long-term care insurance; changing the tax code to make insurance more affordable; providing respite care tax credits for family caregivers; and providing a tax credit to those who care for Alzheimer's victims at home.

Private insurance coverage for long-term nursing home care is very limited with private insurance payments amounting to 1 percent of total spending for nursing home care in 1991. In 1986, approximately 30 insurers were selling long-term care insurance policies of some type and an estimated 200,000 people were covered. As of December 1991, the Health Insurance Association of America [HIAA] found that more than 2.4 million policies had been sold, with 135 insurers offering coverage.

HIAA estimates that the long-term care policies paid $80 a day for nursing home care and $40 a day for home health care; they had a lifetime 5 percent compounded inflation protection; a 20-day deductible period and a 4-year maximum coverage period. These policies had an average annual premium in

December 1991 of $1,781 when purchased at the age of 65, and $5,627 when purchased at the age of 79.

We need to make sure that these policies are not only affordable, but that they deliver the benefits they promise. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners [NAIC] has produced standards for long-term care policies which cover the spectrum of issues—from disclosure to clearly defining the benefits, cost and time period covered. The Federal Government should require that all States meet this standard in any long-term care policies sold in their States. My bill would put the NAIC standards into law.

There is general agreement that we need to change the tax code to take away any disincentives to purchasing long-term care insurance. In addition, the change may encourage employers to offer long-term care policies as an optional benefit, as they would be able to deduct the cost, too. This bill will treat private long-term care insurance policies like accident and health insurance for tax purposes. It would also define a dependent as any parent or grandparent of the taxpayer for whom the taxpayer pays expenses for long-term care services. This change will allow children and grandchildren to deduct the long-term care expenses they pay. Current law requires that an individual must pay 51 percent of the expenses for a dependent before they can be deducted.

Over 80 percent of disabled elderly persons receive care from their family members, most of whom are their wives, daughters, or daughters-in-law. Family caregivers provide between 80 and 90 percent of the medical care, household maintenance, transportation and shopping needed by older persons. Numerous studies have found that family caregivers give up their jobs, have reduced their working hours or have rejected promotions in order to provide long-term care to loved ones.

My bill will expand the dependent care tax credit to make it applicable for respite care expenses and make the credit refundable. A respite care credit would be allowed for up to $1,200 for one qualifying dependent and $2,400 for two qualifying dependents. This money could go, for example, toward hiring an attendant for an elderly dependent during the work day, or for admittance to an adult day care center. The credit for respite care expenses would be available regardless of the caregiver's employment status.

Such a respite care credit will save dollars for both caregiving families and the Government by postponing, or even avoiding, expensive institutionalization.

Finally, this legislation will provide tax deductions from gross income for individual taxpayers who maintain a household which includes a dependent who has Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder. It would allow deductions of expenses, other than medical, which are related to the home health care, adult day care and respite care of an Alzheimer's victim.

In most cases of Alzheimer's disease, families will bear the brunt of the responsibility of care. Many caregivers of dementia victims spend more than 40 hours a week in direct personal care. These families are trying to cope with the needs of a dependent older Alzheimer's victim with little or no financial or professional help.

In the face of the continued and intense involvement of the family caregiver, services that provide respite from the ongoing pressures of care become essential in the caregivers' ability to support the Alzheimer's victim at home. Home health care, adult day care and long-term respite care all provide opportunities to free caregivers from their caregiving responsibility and are crucial in enabling employed caregivers to continue working. Most caregivers willingly provide care for dependent and frail elderly family members. Even so, the presence of these supportive services can be a crucial factor in continued caregiving activities.

It is important to provide some tax relief for those expenses related to their continued care in the home. Perhaps by such action we can delay the institutionalization of dementia victims. Surely we can provide some financial relief to their caregivers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.●

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. COHEN):

S. 412. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to modify the bottled drinking water standards provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE BOTTLED WATER STANDARDS ACT OF 1995

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today, I, along with Senator COHEN, am introducing legislation designed to make the regulatory process for bottled water more efficient and responsive, while expanding health protections for the consuming public.

This bill, the Bottled Water Standards Act of 1995, requires the FDA to publish final regulations for a contaminant in bottled water no more than 6 months after EPA has issued regulations for that same contaminant in public drinking water. It may come as a surprise to some Senators that public drinking water and bottled water are regulated by different agencies of the Federal Government. But in fact, the FDA has the responsibility for ensuring the safety of bottled water, while EPA maintains separate authority for regulating public drinking water supplies.

Unfortunately, the FDA has not always been timely in issuing its regulations for bottled water after EPA publishes its standards for tap water. On December 1, 1994, FDA published a final rule of 35 contaminants in bottled water. Nearly 4 years earlier, however, in January 1991, the EPA regulations for these contaminants have already been issued. In the interim period, bottled water producers and consumers were left in limbo. Their product was subject to industry safety standards and various State rules, but the Federal standards that provide an important additional assurance for bottled water had not been completed. This circumstance was very unfair to both producers and consumers of bottled water and we should not let it continue.

My bill will ensure a more expeditious response in the future. In addition to the 6-month deadline for new contaminants, the FDA will be given 1 year to issue final regulations for contaminants that the EPA already regulates, but that have not yet received new FDA standards for bottled water. If the FDA fails to meet either the 6-month or 1-year deadlines, the existing EPA standard is automatically implemented for bottled water.

In some cases, FDA may determine that a particular contaminant regulated by EPA does not occur in bottled water. My bill would allow the FDA to simply issue such findings in the Federal Register before the deadline periods expire.

The bill also stipulates that in all cases, the FDA standards for bottled water must be at least as stringent as the EPA's standards for public drinking water. The bill does reserve the FDA's right to issue more stringent standards, however, adding an extra measure of public health protection if necessary.

Mr. President, it is my hope that this legislation will prompt the FDA to coordinate its regulatory activities for drinking water contaminants with the EPA. The bill would therefore have the effect of improving the efficiency of the Federal regulatory process—something all of us agree is necessary—while enhancing health protections for consumers. It represents a clear win-win proposition for our constituents.

The bottled water industry generates sales in the billions, and it serves millions of American consumers. Surely, these producers and consumers alike deserve the kind of consideration from their Government that my bill guarantees. Last year, Members in both the House and the Senate agreed with this commonsense approach. Language very similar to that found in my bill was included in the House and Senate versions of the Safe Drinking Water Act reauthorization bills considered last year, and it was included without controversy. I hope that the Bottled Water Standards Act of 1995 will enjoy similar support in the Senate this year.●

● Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Maine, Senator SNOWE, today to introduce legislation that will help to ensure public safety and consumer confidence.

More and more Americans are drinking bottled water every day. Companies

such as Poland Spring in Maine, have grown tremendously in recent years. Unfortunately, because of a jurisdictional quirk, all too common in our Federal Government, bottled water is not currently required to meet the same safety standards that we have placed on tap water.

Tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Administration, which sets rigorous and comprehensive standards to ensure the safety of our Nation's drinking water. Bottled water is considered a food item and is therefore regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. In carrying out its responsibility to regulate bottled water, the FDA has failed, for whatever reason, to keep pace with EPA's detailed tap water regulations. Consequently, tap water must meet higher standards than bottled water.

I want to make it clear that the bottled water industry firmly believes that their product is as safe, if not safer than tap water. But because bottled water is not required to meet tap water standards, the industry cannot adequately defend itself against allegations about the quality of bottled water.

In an effort to resolve this dispute, the legislation being introduced today would simply require the FDA to publish regulations for a specific contaminant in bottled water no more than 6 months after the EPA has issued regulations for that same contaminant in tap water. If that contaminant is not a risk for bottled water, then FDA must formally make such a determination. If the FDA fails to meet this 6 month deadline, the EPA regulations would then apply to both tap water and bottled water.

I believe this proposal is a very reasonable and workable solution to this problem. I think both consumers and the bottled water industry, which welcomes this bill, would benefit from the changes this legislation attempts to achieve. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward the passage of this bill.●

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PELL, Mr. DODD, Mr. SIMON, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 413. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate under such act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE WORKING WAGE INCREASE ACT OF 1995

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, generations of Americans have been raised to believe that hard work is a virtue and that if you work hard, you can get ahead and share in the American dream. But for many Americans today, putting in 40 hours per week will not ensure that they will be able to buy their own home or send their children to college.

In fact, for some workers, a full-time job doesn't even pay enough to keep their families out of poverty.

Workers who earn the minimum wage have seen their standard of living decline dramatically since the 1970's. Even with an adjustment for inflation, the minimum wage is now 27 percent lower than it was in 1979.

Looked at another way, the minimum wage is at its second lowest level in four decades. And if it remains at $4.25 per hour, its buying power will continue to erode.

As the value of the minimum wage has fallen, the number of working families living in poverty has increased. I'm sure that many Americans would be shocked to learn that more than 11 percent of families with children where the householder is employed have incomes below the poverty line.

That an individual could work 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year and still not provide for his or her children goes against our most basic notices of fairness and equity.

This startling fact becomes even more important as the Nation turns its attention to the issue of welfare reform. Most Americans—Democrats and Republicans alike—feel strongly that we must break the cycle of dependency upon public assistance and require those who are able to work.

But the simple truth is this. We can't encourage people to work if the wages they earn will not even pay for their most basic needs and the needs of their children.

So we must find a way to make work pay.

Raising the minimum wage is not the sole solution to this problem, but it is a good first step.

And for the 36 percent of minimum-wage workers who are the sole breadwinners in their families, it is a very meaningful first step.

The legislation I am introducing today with Senators KENNEDY, PELL, DODD, SIMON, HARKIN, MIKULSKI, WELLSTONE, LEAHY, KERRY, and LAUTENBERG will help to restore the earning power of the minimum wage. Modeled on the last increase in the minimum wage—which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed by President Bush—the bill calls for a 45-cent increase in July, followed by a second 45-cent increase next year.

This modest increase will not fully compensate for the erosion in the value of the minimum wage since the 1970's. However, when combined with the 1993 expansion of the earned income tax credit, this increase will ensure that minimum-wage workers and their families remain above the poverty level.

The American public understands that men and women should be paid a living wage for their labor. In a poll conducted by the Wall Street Journal and NBC, 75 percent of those polled support an increase in the minimum wage.

Despite the broad public support for an increase, some Republican leaders have expressed their opposition, arguing that requiring businesses to pay higher wages will lead to overall job loss. However, recent studies by some of the Nation's leading labor economists have concluded that when the minimum wage is at a low level, a modest increase will not effect employment negatively.

In 1992, for example, New Jersey raised its minimum wage by 80 cents per hour, from $4.25 to $5.05. Economists found no reduction in employment opportunities as a result of this increase.

Paying workers a living wage is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is an issue of fairness and equity. It's my hope that Senators and Representatives on both sides of the aisle will join together to do what is right for low-wage workers.

I think a recent editorial in the Huron, SD, Plainsman said it best: ''Taking home $5 per hour is hardly making a living. But those on the lower end of the pay scale * * * deserve at least that much.''

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 413

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Working Wage Increase Act of 1995''.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE RATE.

Section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, not less than $4.25 an hour during the period ending July 3, 1995, not less than $4.70 an hour during the year beginning July 4, 1995, and not less than $5.15 an hour after July 3, 1996;''.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today as an original cosponsor of legislation increasing the minimum wage because I see it as one of our best tools to reform welfare by making work pay.

Nearly everyone recognizes the need to overhaul our welfare system to encourage work and responsibility. We must institute work requirements and provide job training to make work possible. But we must also take concrete action to make work more attractive than public assistance.

The current minimum wage is simply inadequate. If you work full time for $4.25 an hour, your annual income is only $8,500 a year. That is well below $12,500, which is the poverty level for a family of three.

The minimum wage continues to lose ground as a percentage of average hourly wages—in fact, by next year the minimum wage will be at it lowest point since the Eisenhower administration. A recent survey in Baltimore found that 27 percent of the regulars at city soup kitchens and food pantries were working people with low-wage

jobs. It is clear that the minimum wage is not a living wage, and it's time for us to do something about it.

Many opponents claim that most minimum wage earners are middle-class high school students. That is simply not true. Two-thirds of the Nation's 4.2 million minimum-wage workers are adults over the age 21. The average minimum-wage earner brings home about half of his or her family's annual income.

Another claim frequently made by critics of the minimum wage is that it destroys entry-level jobs. This argument is repeated so frequently that it has become a mantra, but recent economic analysis suggests it doesn't hold up. Several recent economic studies have found that the last two increases in the minimum wage had an negligible impact on employment.

After surveying the literature on the subject, Harvard labor economist Richard Freeman concludes that ''at the level of the minimum wage in the late 1980's, moderate legislated increases did not reduce employment and were, if anything, associated with higher employment in some locales.''

In the past, increasing the minimum wage has been a broadly bipartisan issue. In 1989, the vote to increase the wage was 382–37 in the House and 89–8 in the Senate. The public has clearly spoken about the issue. A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found that 75 percent of the public supports increasing the minimum wage, while only 20 percent oppose it.

I hope that we can put our partisan differences aside to provide millions of hard-working Americans with a modest boost they very much need and reduce welfare dependency at the same time.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. HATFIELD):

S. 414. A bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to extend indefinitely the current provisions governing the export of certain domestically produced crude oil; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

THE ALASKA NORTH SLOPE OIL EXPORT BAN ACT OF 1995

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleague from Oregon, Senator HATFIELD, in reintroducing legislation that will extend indefinitely the restrictions on the export of Alaska North Slope crude oil. Twenty years ago, Congress passed legislation that enabled oil to be produced on the North Slope. That legislation involved a careful balancing of a variety of interests. Foremost was our national energy security. In the face of a heavy reliance on imported oil, Congress determined that any oil produced from the North Slope should be used by American consumers unless the President found and Congress agreed that it was in the national interest to export all or any portion of that oil. Of equal importance, Congress was deeply concerned about the Alaska environmental impacts of North Slope oil production. Knowing that the Alaskan tundra and the wildlife would be endangered by oil pipeline construction and oil production, Congress saw no sense in facing these risks for the sake of supplying oil to foreign nations.

By 1977, ANS crude was flowing through the Trans-Alaska pipeline system to the lower 48 States and Hawaii. From the pipeline's terminus at Valdez, AK, it moved by U.S.-flag Jones Act tankers to ports in the States of Washington and California. In both of these States, refineries were either built or modified to handle the surge of oil, which immediately reduced west coast reliance on imported crude. In Oregon, as well as in California and Washington, shipyards expanded to handle the construction and repair of more than 50 ships that carried ANS crude. A pipeline was built across Panama to provide an efficient means of transporting ANS crude that could not be sold on the west coast to gulf coast ports. Shipyards in the gulf benefitted from new tanker construction and repair business. The U.S. merchant marine was also a beneficiary of ANS crude, with the creation of over 2,000 jobs and the maintenance of a U.S. flag tanker capacity that would not have existed if ANS crude had been exported. This merchant marine capability not only created jobs, it helped to bolster our national defense by providing tankers flying the U.S.-flag that could be—and subsequently were used—in times of national emergency. In the early years of ANS crude production, west coast consumers enjoyed lower prices at the pump because of the abundant supply of Alaska oil. Above all, ANS crude reduced our reliance on imported oil and, together with a national energy conservation effort, helped to prevent our reliance on imported oil from being used against us as a foreign policy weapon.

Mr. President, we in the State of Washington are directly affected by the congressional policy of restricting exports of Alaska oil. With ANS crude exports, we would have an influx of large foreign-flag tankers offloading crude oil to smaller ships along our coast so our refineries could be supplied with the oil we need. This offloading is an environmental hazard that we can ill afford. Thousands of jobs in refineries and related industries have been created in our State, and many Washingtonians perform ANS tanker repair work in the port of Portland.

In this Congress, as they have done many times in the past, my distinguished colleagues from Alaska, Senators STEVENS and MURKOWSKI, have proposed legislation that would eliminate the ANS export restrictions. Their goal is understandable. Every barrel of ANS oil that is exported increases that State's severance tax revenues. However, I remind my colleagues that the law says that exports should be permitted only if they are in the national interest, not just the interest of the State of Alaska.

Indeed, that question is an important one for the Senate to keep in mind as it considers this issue. Congress has also passed other laws that place nearly identical national interest restrictions in the export of all oil from any State, as well as from offshore areas and the naval petroleum reserves. My distinguished colleagues from Alaska are asking for an exemption from a policy that applies to every other State where oil if produced.

At a time when our reliance on imported oil has reached a historic high, and when the Commerce Department has found that the level of oil imports poses a national security threat, Congress should not be permitting exports of ANS crude. Our energy security demands that the national interest restrictions on exports remain in place. Equally compelling is our need to protect the environment. Every barrel of Alaska oil that is exported must be replaced by a barrel of foreign oil that will come to the United States on large foreign-flag tankers. That would amount to a reckless endangerment of our coastal environment.

Aside from increasing the tax revenues of the State of Alaska, the primary beneficiary of Alaska oil exports would be British Petroleum, the largest producer of ANS crude. This foreign-owned oil company will be able to reduce its oil transportation costs and, thus, increase its profits. None of us should be lulled into the false belief that British Petroleum's increased profits would mean increased production in Alaska. The North Slope fields are producing at their maximum level today. They are now old fields whose production has inevitably gone into decline, but continue to produce 25 percent of our Nation's oil.

Nor will taking ANS crude from its west coast markets increase California oil production. The refineries that process Alaska oil can't handle the additional volumes of heavy grade of oil produced in California. They will replace any lost Alaska oil with foreign oil. In addition, Alaska oil sells on both the west and gulf coasts at world price levels. The only price impact of exports would be to permit British Petroleum to gain the power to set higher prices for the smaller amounts of ANS crude that would remain available to the west coast. If that price is passed through, it will harm consumers. The integrated oil company refineries—including those who are able to use supplies of oil they produce in Alaska—will be able to absorb any price increase. However, west coast independent refiners are in a poor position to absorb increases in the price of their crude oil stocks because their profit margins will not permit it. In addition, these independents do not have the docking facilities to handle large foreign-flag ships, nor do they have the storage tanks to handle supplies of this

size. Inevitably, ANS exports will endanger the continued existence of independent refineries and the thousands of men and women who depend on these refineries for their livelihood.

Finally, Mr. President, there is the issue of ships. The fleet that carries Alaska oil is aging. Within the past few days, the U.S. Coast Guard has launched an investigation to determine if existing regulation of these tankers is adequate. Their action comes on the heels of the discovery of four structural failures in ships that carry ANS crude to the west coast ports within the past month alone. Congress has already dealt with the issue of tanker safety in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which requires the gradual phase-in over the next few years of new, double-hulled tankers that will present far less danger to our environment. The proposal to export Alaska oil stipulates the U.S.-flag ships be used. There is a significant difference between a U.S. flag and a Jones Act ship. Jones Act ships must be built and repaired in the United States, while U.S.-flag ships can be foreign vessels that are placed under U.S. registry. To replace its aging fleet on ANS tankers, British Petroleum would under current law be required to enter into long-term charters ranging from 10 to 15 years in order to guarantee the financing and the construction of these ships. However, if it is permitted to use foreign-built vessels, British Petroleum can engage in short-term hires of existing, single-hulled vessels whose age does not require replacement under OPA90 for several years. British Petroleum should be constructing new Jones Act ships now. That would be the responsible and prudent policy to follow. Instead, they are continuing to use aging ships that pose a threat of structural failures. In addition, British Petroleum and its allies in Congress seek to deprive United States shipyards of much-needed new construction work. Jobs that would have been created by this work will be lost at the same time as our environment is endangered.

Mr. President, it is clear that the State of Alaska and British Petroleum will benefit from Alaska oil exports. However, it is equally clear that these are the only beneficiaries of exports. Our national energy security, our environment, and the jobs of U.S. workers will be placed in jeopardy. Maintaining the restrictions on ANS exports is good policy for America. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the legislation I am proud to introduce today.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator PATTY MURRAY in introducing legislation to extend the current restrictions on exports of Alaskan North Slope crude oil contained in section 7(d) of the Export Administration Act. In previous years, Congress has expressed strong bipartisan support for these restrictions. I am confident that Congress will again affirm its commitment to promoting national energy security by passing this important legislation.

Since the Alaskan oil export restrictions were first exacted by Congress in 1973, they have provided enduring benefits for our Nation. We now have an efficient transportation infrastructure to move crude oil from Alaska to the lower 48 States and Hawaii. In addition, these restrictions have helped limit our reliance on OPEC and unstable Persian Gulf oil supplies. Furthermore, we have been able to enhance a domestic merchant marine that continues to help supply the essential oil requirements of our domestic economy and our military.

Despite the lessons of two major oil crises and the Persian Gulf War, we foolishly continue to rely on foreign oil as a major energy source. U.S. oil imports now exceed half of our daily oil requirement. Government and private estimates now predict that by the year 2010, imports will equal 59 percent.

Permitting the export of any Alaskan North Slope crude would only exacerbate this already serious problem. By allowing the export of Alaskan oil to Japan and other Pacific rim countries, we would further increase our dependency on Middle Eastern oil, increase consumer petroleum costs on the west coast, threaten the vitality of our domestic tanker fleet, and cause net Federal revenue losses. Moreover, Alaskan oil exports would cause job losses in the maritime and related ship-supply industries on the west coast. Mr. President, these are costs which this Nation simply cannot afford.

Our ability to withstand future energy crises will certainly be tested if we fail to take the appropriate steps now to protect our own energy resources. By extending indefinitely the current export restrictions on Alaskan crude oil in section 7(d) of the act, we will reaffirm the policy of keeping this country on the right path toward energy security.

I commend Senator MURRAY for her leadership. I look forward to working with her, members of the Senate Banking Committee, and other interested Senators, as this proposal moves forward.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 415. A bill to apply the antitrust laws to major league baseball in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL ANTITRUST REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce legislation that, if and when it becomes law, will bring about an end to the baseball strike. In fact, the players have already voted to end their strike if this bill becomes law.

Unlike other legislation that has been proposed, my bill would not impose a big-government solution. On the contrary, it would get government out of the way by eliminating a serious Government-made obstacle to settlement. Seventy-three years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that professional baseball is not a business in interstate commerce and is therefore immune from the reach of the Federal antitrust laws. This ruling was almost certainly wrong when it was first rendered in 1922. Fifty years later, in 1972, when the Supreme Court readdressed this question, the limited concept of interstate commerce on which the 1922 ruling rested had long since been shattered. The Court in 1972 accurately noted that baseball's antitrust immunity was an aberration that no other sport or industry enjoyed. But it left it to Congress to correct the Court's error.

A limited repeal of this antitrust immunity is now in order. Labor negotiations between owners and players are impeded by the fact that baseball players, unlike all other workers, have no resort under the law if the baseball owners act in a manner that would, in the absence of the immunity, violate the antitrust laws. This aberration in the antitrust laws has handed the owners a huge club that gives them unique leverage in bargaining and discourages them from accepting reasonable terms. This is an aberration that Government has created, and it is an aberration that Government should fix.

The legislation that I am introducing would provide for a limited repeal of professional baseball's antitrust immunity. This repeal would be limited to the subject matter of major league labor relations. It would not affect baseball's ability to control franchise relocation, nor would it affect the minor leagues. It also would not affect any other sport or business.

This legislation would not impose any terms of settlement on the disputing parties, nor would it require that they reach a settlement. Rather, it would simply remove a serious impediment to settlement—an impediment that is the product of an aberration in our antitrust laws. In short, far from involving any governmental intrusion into the pending baseball dispute, the legislation would get Government out of the way.

I am pleased to report that this bill has bipartisan support. Original cosponsors include Senators MOYNIHAN, GRAHAM, and BINGAMAN.

I am even more pleased to report that the baseball players have already voted to end their strike if this bill becomes law. There will be a full 1995 baseball season if Congress acts quickly on this long overdue measure.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the House to support this legislation.

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Professional Baseball Antitrust Reform Act of 1995, a bill drafted by the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH. I hope

this legislation will help to facilitate negotiations in—and settlement of—the professional baseball strike that has gone on for 6 long months now.

This bill is designed to be a partial repeal of major league baseball's antitrust exemption. It would leave the exemption in place as it pertains to minor league baseball and the ability of major league baseball to control the relocation of franchises.

On January 4, 1995, the first day of the 104th Congress, I introduced my own legislation on this subject. My bill, S. 15, the National Pastime Preservation Act of 1995, would apply the antitrust laws to major league baseball without the exceptions suggested by my friend from Utah.

In 1922, the Supreme Court of the United States, in Federal Baseball Club versus National League, held that ''exhibitions of base ball'' were not interstate commerce and thus were exempt from the antitrust laws. Fifty years later, in Flood versus Kuhn in 1972, the Court acknowledged that in fact baseball is a business engaged in interstate commerce, but declined to reverse Federal Baseball, citing a half century of congressional inaction on the matter.

Clearly baseball is a business engaged in interstate commerce, and should be subject to the antitrust laws to the same extent that all other businesses are. But the greater point is that the strike must be settled through good-faith bargaining between the parties. I will support this and any other effort that will move the parties forward toward a collective bargaining agreement—and the resumption of baseball in America as soon as possible.

I thank my friend from Utah for inviting me to cosponsor this legislation, and hope other Senators agree with us that the time has come to act.●

By Mr. THURMOND (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 416. A bill to require the application of the antitrust laws to major league baseball, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ANTITRUST REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Major League Baseball Antitrust Reform Act of 1995 to repeal the antitrust exemption which shields major league baseball from the antitrust laws that apply to all other sports. I am pleased to have Senator LEAHY, the ranking member of the Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee which I chair, join me in introducing this bill.

The Thurmond-Leahy legislation addresses baseball's antitrust exemption, but is not specially drafted in an attempt to solve the current baseball strike. Although the ongoing strike raises questions about the antitrust exemption, major league baseball's problems go far deeper than this one strike. Baseball has suffered a strike or lockout every time a contract has expired during the last quarter century. Baseball has had eight strikes or lockouts in a row, the worst work stoppage record of all professional sports. Removing the antitrust exemption will not automatically resolve baseball's problems, but I believe it will move baseball in the right direction.

Despite our interest in seeing the players return to the field, we must be ever mindful of the need to limit Federal Government intervention into matters best left to private remedies. The Congress should determine how much Federal involvement, if any, serves the public interest in this area. But as long as the special antitrust exemption remains in place for baseball, the Congress is involved. The Congress has an impact on the sport by simply permitting the special exemption to remain long after the factual basis for it has disappeared.

It is now well-known that baseball's antitrust exemption is essentially a historical accident. The exemption was established in 1922 by the Supreme Court—not the Congress—when the Court held that professional baseball was not interstate commerce and therefore could not be subject to the Federal antitrust laws. Since that time, the Supreme Court held that baseball is, of course, interstate commerce, but the Court refused to end the exemption. Instead, the Court held that it is up to the Congress to make any necessary changes in the exemption. In light of the Supreme Court decisions in this area, we must recognize that responsibility has shifted to the Congress to address the exemption and whatever effects it may have on major league baseball's problems.

Some Members of Congress believe that we should not get involved during the current strike, while other Members have asserted that in the absence of a strike there is no need for the Congress to take action on this issue. Whether there is a strike or not, it is my belief that it is proper for the Congress to consider this antitrust issue as a matter of public policy. The Congress has considered baseball's antitrust exemption in the past, including serious attention by the Senate Judiciary Committee last year, prior to the current strike. I intend to continue working on this issue, even if the strike were to end today.

As a practical matter, there is no guarantee that any legislation on this subject will be enacted promptly, despite our best efforts, given the press of other business in both the Senate and the House. Thus, this legislation ought to have little impact on baseball's negotiations. The players and owners certainly should continue to work to settle their differences without assuming that congressional intervention will occur.

The Thurmond-Leahy legislation would repeal baseball's antitrust exemption, while maintaining the status quo for the minor leagues. Protecting the current relations with the minor leagues is important to avoid disruption of the more than 170 minor league teams which are thriving throughout our Nation. This is a priority which other Members and I have clearly expressed. The Thurmond-Leahy bill also makes clear that it does not override the provisions of the Sports Broadcast Act of 1961, which permits league-wide contracts with television networks.

Nor does the Thurmond-Leahy legislation affect the so-called nonstatutory labor exemption. The nonstatutory labor exemption shields employers from the antitrust laws when they are involved in collective bargaining with a union. Court interpretations of the nonstatutory labor exemption are somewhat unsettled. But there is no doubt that, at a minimum, repealing baseball's special exemption would permit antitrust challenges in the absence of a collective bargaining arrangement, and would place baseball on the same footing as other professional sports and businesses.

I am also concerned about the issue of franchise relocation, a subject on which I held hearings in the mid-1980's while serving as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Relocation is a significant issue to baseball, as well as other professional sports. If the antitrust laws need adjustment in this area, we should consider this matter in the context of all professional sports. Thus, the Thurmond-Leahy bill does not address franchise relocation, but separate legislation is being considered to protect objective franchise relocation rules in all professional sports.

Mr. President, I join the millions of Americans who are anxious for the 1995 baseball season to begin, and encourage the owners and players to resolve their differences. But again, I believe the proper role for the Congress is to repeal the Court imposed antitrust exemption. This will restore baseball to the same level playing field as other professional sports and businesses. By removing the antitrust exemption, the players and owners will have one less distraction keeping them from developing a long-term working relationship, and the Congress will no longer be intertwined in baseball because of the special exemption.

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I join with Senator THURMOND to introduce the Major League Baseball Antitrust Reform Act of 1995. As chairman and ranking Democrat on the Senate's Antitrust Subcommittee, we will be participating in hearings later this week into the exemption from the Federal antitrust laws enjoyed by major league baseball. Our antitrust laws are intended to protect competition and benefit consumers. No one is or should be above the law. Yet for over 70 years, major league baseball has operated outside our antitrust laws. I think that should be reviewed and corrected.

Last summer, the Senate Judiciary Committee had an opportunity to right this situation when we considered a bill to repeal baseball's antitrust exemption that was very similar to the

bill we are introducing today. While Senator THURMOND and I supported the measure, some of our colleagues blinked and the measure was defeated.

Soon thereafter negotiations between major league baseball owners and players disintegrated. We have since witnessed a preemptive strike, the unilateral imposition of a salary cap, failed efforts at mediation, the loss of one season and likely obliteration on a second, and pleas from all corners to resolve the current impasse going for naught.

In my view, major league baseball's exemption from Federal antitrust laws has significantly contributed to the problem that confronts us all today. Had Congress repealed that out-of-date, judicially proclaimed immunity from law, I believe that this matter would not be festering. I hope that we will, at long last, take up the issue of major league baseballs' antitrust exemption.

Baseball has been the national pastime. It has served to bind parent to child. It teaches important values including the benefits of teamwork and doing ones best. It is part of our history. The game's current caretakers are about to cost the American people another year without baseball.

Seniors who look forward to the joys of spring training and to following their favorite teams on radio or television will have to do without. Youngsters looking for positive role models, contemporary heros, and a sport to span generations or Americans will be shortchanged.

Cities and towns that have invested millions in facilities to support major league baseball will be cheated. Vendors and others who rely on baseball for jobs that help them scratch out a living for themselves and their families will be hit, again.

There is a public interest in the resumption of true, major league baseball. The current situation derives at least in part from circumstances in which the Federal antitrust laws have not applied, Congress has provided no regulatory framework to protect the public, and the major leagues have chosen to operate without a strong, independent commissioner who could look out for the best interests of baseball. Thus, competing financial interests continue to clash, with no resolution in sight.

In my view, the burden of proof is on those who seek to justify baseball's exemption from the law. No other business or professional or amateur sport is possessed of the exemption from law that major league baseball has enjoyed and abused.

I look forward to our prompt hearings and to move ahead thoughtfully to consider whether major league baseball, as it is currently organized, is entitled to exemption from legal requirements to which all other businesses must conform their behavior. It is time to forge a legal framework in which the public will be better served. Since the multibillion-dollar businesses that have grown from what was once our national pastime are now big business being run accordingly to a financial bottom line, a healthy injection of competition may be just what is needed.●

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 417. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the eligibility of veterans for mortgage revenue bond financing; to the Committee on Finance.

MORTGAGE REVENUE BOND FINANCING LEGISLATION

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I reintroduce legislation that will help Wisconsin and several other States extend one of our most successful veterans programs to Persian Gulf war participants and others. This bill will amend the eligibility requirements for mortgage revenue bond financing for State veterans housing programs.

Wisconsin uses this tax-exempt bond authority to assist veterans in purchasing their first home. Under rules adopted by Congress in 1984, this program excluded from eligibility veterans who served after 1977 or who had been out of service for more than 30 years. This bill would simply remove those restrictions.

Wisconsin and the other eligible States simply want to maintain a principle that we in the Senate have also strived to uphold—that veterans of the Persian Gulf war should not be treated less generously than those of past wars. This bill will make that possible.●

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 418. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to extend, improve, increase flexibility, and increase conservation benefits of the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT OF 1995

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I introduce the Conservation Reserve Program Extension Act of 1995. I am pleased to be joined in offering this legislation by Senator DASCHLE, Senator WELLSTONE, and Senator BAUCUS.

Established in the 1985 farm bill, the Conservation Reserve Program [CRP] is one of the most popular programs ever offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Its objective, as stated in the 1985 farm bill, was ''to assist owners and operators of highly erodible cropland in conserving and improving the soil and water resources of their farms or ranches.''

Several factors led to the creation of the program: The United States had accumulated large surpluses of agricultural commodities; commodity prices were extremely low; the agricultural economy was in a precipitous downturn; the cost of agricultural programs was increasing, and soil erosion was actually increasing in some areas of the country. Thus, Congress decided to initiate a program to reduce surplus commodities by retiring cropland, increase prices, boost producer income, and just as important, sharply reduce soil erosion.

Although the program's goal of maintaining higher prices was not as measurable as producers in my State would have liked—a goal which is obviously affected by other factors—the program was well-received and achieved positive results. Between 1986 and 1989, farmers were given nine opportunities to enroll land in the CRP, and they enrolled 33.9 million acres. As a result, the program returned normalcy to the agricultural sector and, along with conservation compliance requirements of the 1985 farm bill, helped reduce soil erosion substantially.

Conditions were different during the debate over the 1990 farm bill, and the CRP was modified to meet those conditions. The CRP was broadened to include more environmentally sensitive lands. Bids were accepted on the basis of an environmental benefits index that measured the potential contribution to conservation and environmental program goals that land would provide if enrolled. Seven goals were set for the program. The goals included surface water quality improvement, potential ground water quality improvement, preservation of soil productivity, assistance to farmers most affected by conservation compliance, encouragement of tree planting, enrollment in hydrologic unit areas identified under the water quality initiative, andenrollment in conservation priority areas established by Congress. These changes broadened the scope of the program, helping it achieve positive, measurable results.

Although initially mandated to research 40 to 45 million acres, according to USDA's Economic Research Service the CRP now includes 36.4 million acres through 375,000 contractual agreements. This represents about 8 percent of total U.S. cropland. The CRP has reduced soil erosion by 700 million tons per year, a reduction of 22 percent compared with conditions that existed prior to the program. In addition, the program has produced enormous benefits for wildlife, both game and nongame species. It is no surprise that reauthorization of the CRP is the primary legislative goal of nearly every wildlife organization.

The CRP has had a significant impact on North Dakota agriculture. Consider the following statistics provided by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service:

Number of bids	26,600
Number of contracts	18,520
Acres contracted	3,180,569
Average rental rate	$38
Total annual rental	$121,998,974

Commodity base acres involved include:

Wheat	1,138,046
Corn	134,417

Barley	580,059
Oats	263,683
Sorghum	1,837
Total base acres	2,118,042

Total annual erosion reduction: 45,842,990 tons.

The future of this program is central to the debate over the 1995 farm bill in my State.

The legislation we are introducing today represents our effort to address the questions of participants in our States and many others who have concerns about the future of CRP: farm implement dealers, fertilizer and pesticide companies, local business people, lenders, conservationists, ranchers, hunters, and various other parties.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made two significant announcements that signal its intentions over the future of the CRP. On August 24, 1994, USDA announced 1-year contract extensions to participants whose contract expires on September 30, 1995.

On December 14, 1994, USDA announced that action would be taken to modify and extend all CRP contracts and to improve the targeting of the CRP to more environmentally sensitive acres.

As a result of these announcements, the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] adjusted its baseline projections for CRP spending. However, the new baseline suggests that the new CRP will shrink to less than half its size, about 15 million acres.

I believe a 15-million acre CRP is insufficient to maintain the broad benefits of the program. Passage of this legislation is necessary to maintain program benefits.

First, environmental benefits will be lost. As I noted, he CRP provides outstanding improvements in water quality, soil quality, and wildlife habitat. Even more benefits could be gained through enactment of our bill. A mistake was made once before in allowing a similar program, the soil bank, to expire. From 1956 to 1972, USDA managed the soil bank, to divert cropland from production in order to reduce inventories, and to establish and maintain protective vegetative cover on the land. In 1960, there were 28.7 million acres under contract. Although many forces were at work in ending the program such as commodity prices in the world market, by the mid-1970's most land had returned to crop production. Many of those acres are now enrolled in the CRP.

Second, commodity prices will likely fall. As CRP contracts expire, several surveys have shown that a majority of farmers will return the land to production, increasing stocks and depressing prices. According to USDA's Economic Research Service, wheat prices would fall 9 percent; corn prices would fall 5 percent. Lower prices and increased acreage receiving payments would increase total deficiency payments 21 percent.

Third, the debate over the 1995 farm bill could become an increasingly difficult budget fight. Some members of Congress continually suggest that Federal farm programs should be cut significantly to solve our budget deficit. I disagree. Agriculture spending has been cut significantly in recent years. If other Federal programs had taken the same reductions agriculture has, our deficit problem would be much less serious, if not solved. If we fail to fully extend the CRP, the budget pressures on agriculture will very likely increase dramatically, threatening farm income that is already at insufficient levels.

Fourth, the combination of lower prices and the loss of rental payments will have serious financial implications for producers and landowners in North Dakota and many other States. If, as some of my colleagues have suggested, the CRP is significantly downsized at the same time farm programs are eliminated, the combined impact would seriously erode land values, and hurt rural schools, businesses and communities, and lending institutions.

I believe that is the wrong approach to Federal agriculture policy. I believe the CRP is an important part of a long-term strategy to maintaining a sound rural economy. The bill I am introducing would lead us in that direction by accomplishing the following:

Requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to offer current contract holders the option of renewing their current contract for 10 years upon expiration. Acreage not reenrolled would be required to follow a basic conservation plan.

Requiring the Secretary to use a bidding system to enroll new acres into the CRP with cost-share assistance available for carrying out conservation measures and practices. Three criteria shall be used by USDA to determine new enrollment: water quality, soil quality, and wildlife habitat.

By moving forward on such a policy, it is my belief that we will be making better long-term decisions for this valuable national resource. The benefits to society in improved water and soil quality and wildlife habitat are real and measurable. Let us not repeat the errors of the past when the soil bank was cavalierly eliminated.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 12

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the names of the Senator from Colorado [Mr. BROWN], the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH], the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT], the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], the Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM], the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE], the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES], the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND], the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], and the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 12, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage savings and investment through individual retirement accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] and the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. SIMPSON] were added as cosponsors of S. 262, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make permanent the deduction for health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to establish a temporary moratorium on the Interagency Memorandum of Agreement Concerning Wetlands Determinations until enactment of a law that is the successor to the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 285

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to grant authority to provide social services block grants directly to Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to elevate the position of Director of Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, to provide for the organizational independence of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 324

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude from the definition of employee firefighters and rescue squad workers who perform volunteer services and to prevent employers from requiring employees who are firefighters or rescue squad workers to perform volunteer services, and to allow an employer not to pay overtime compensation to a firefighter or rescue squad worker who performs volunteer services for the employer, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the names of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS], the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 348, a bill to provide for a review by the Congress of rules promulgated by agencies, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3

At the request of Mr. SIMON, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island