

legislation better, so I urge my colleagues on both sides to agree to the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I extend my appreciation to the senior Senator from New Mexico for improving this substitute. I say that because I look at this legislation a little differently than some in this Chamber. I know there are some who are saying we are going to have a bill later on that is going to be a lot better. Having served here and in the other body for a while, I recognize we have to do the best we can with what we have at a given time. The better we make this bill, the better it is going to be for the American people in case something better does not come along later.

So I appreciate very much the work of the Senator from New Mexico. He and I go back 6 or 8 years working on the General Accounting Office. I think this is a responsibility they should have. They are equipped to do a good job on this assignment they will be given. I think it is a good amendment and I hope it is adopted very quickly.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Senators from Nevada and Ohio. I do believe this will help the bill. Senator NICKLES and I are pleased to be helpful. I think in a few years the process you were recommending will be working very well and we will know a lot more about bad regulations before they get placed in effect and then find out later they are hurting our people.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. GLENN. Madam President, I wanted to clarify a couple of matters here. We have in the reporting by the Comptroller General, as I understand it—we say he will—

... provide a report on each significant rule to the committees of jurisdiction to each House of Congress by the end of 12 calendar days after the submission or publication date as provided in section 4(b)(2). The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of the agency's compliance with procedural steps required with subsection (A)(iv) through (vii).

I think those words were added. I presume they were. I just wanted to check and make sure that is the wording that was in the legislation?

Mr. DOMENICI. They are in the legislation. And after discussing the issue with all four Senators and their staffs, I think those are appropriate words, because I do not think in 12 to 15 days the GAO can do a thorough substantive review, but they can do a procedural review as prescribed.

Mr. GLENN. I agree with my colleague. That clarifies it and makes sure what we are not expecting from the GAO is their own complete risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis as original work. That would overburden them on the 800 or 900 significant regulations that are issued each year and leaves it open that once one of these regulations or rules is reported back, if

a committee wishes to get into it more, then they can. Or they could possibly even ask for a complete GAO original study as we do now of different pieces of legislation. That would still be possible. But this limits it to the GAO reviewing whether the agency has complied with procedural steps required in law. I am glad to have that clarified.

With that understanding I believe we would be happy to accept this on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, we have no objection to this amendment on this side and urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there be no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 413) was agreed to.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. GLENN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I ask that I may use just a minute or two of my leader time.

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

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET CUTS

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, President Clinton won big headlines today with his proposal to cut \$13 billion from four Government agencies over the next 5 years. I have learned recently maybe \$8 billion of that is already in the President's budget, so I am not certain what the figure really is. But we certainly welcome the President's interest in trimming Government spending. The Washington Post even suggested today that the President's interest may be related to last November's election results. Certainly we hope he is hearing the message.

The President now has a real opportunity to get on the spending-cuts bandwagon tomorrow because the Senate will consider more than \$13 billion in spending cuts and the American people will not have to wait 5 years to see the savings. These are cuts in this fiscal year. This is \$13 billion the Government will not be able to spend during the next 6 months, not the next 5 years.

The American people want more than tinkering around the edges; they want dramatic results and want better use of their tax dollars, starting now.

The American people sent a loud and clear message to Washington last November: Rein in the Federal Government, reduce the size of Government and cut spending. We are prepared to provide the leadership once again to turn that message into action. We hope the President will join us in this effort to give the American people real spending cuts.

I hope the President will take a look at the supplemental appropriation bill, send us a letter supporting those cuts, and then he will really be on record for real cuts this year, not 5 years down the road, particularly if \$8 billion of the \$13 billion he talks about is already in the President's budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Will the Senator yield 1 minute?

Mr. DOLE. I will be happy to yield 2 or 3 or 5 minutes to the Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, first, I want to compliment the Republican leader for his adroitness here. He quickly caught the fact that the President is making a big to-do about almost nothing today. First of all, it is my understanding that of this \$13 billion, \$8 billion of it is in the President's budget.

Everybody knows that budget does not cut anything. So what really happened is he cuts a little bit there and increases things elsewhere. So, of this big package, alleged big package of \$13 billion, \$8 billion is in the President's budget. It was already there and we knew about it. What did we say about that budget? We said that budget put up the white flag of surrender against deficits. So, certainly, this activity of cutting \$13 billion is no big victory. It is still a white flag of surrender.

I would go beyond our distinguished leader and say we are going to look forward to the President's support when we produce a budget resolution that gets us a balanced budget by the year 2002, in 7 years. That is what the American people want. They do not want an announcement that a little piece of Federal Government is being changed and everybody in America is supposed to think we are really getting the deficit under control. We are not getting the deficit under control. It will be with us at \$200 to \$250 billion a year for as far as the eye can see and our children will be burdened with it beyond anything we ever imagined. This announcement will not do very much to alleviate that burden on them or on this country.

Mr. GREGG. Will the Senator from New Mexico yield for a question?

Mr. DOMENICI. I will be pleased to yield.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I say to the chairman of the Budget Committee, as I understand it, my quick calculation is that the \$13 billion of cuts which the President is proposing over 5 years represents one-twentieth of 1 percent of the spending that is going to occur over that 5-year period. Whereas the bill that we are bringing forward tomorrow, under Senator DOLE's leadership and under Senator PACKWOOD's leadership, represents a real \$13 billion in cuts—ironically, the same number. It is going to occur this year, immediately. Is that correct?

Mr. DOMENICI. That is correct. As a matter of fact, the \$13 billion is about 3 percent of the appropriated accounts, whereas the dollar number the President has in his of just the appropriated accounts over the next 5 to 7 years is far less than half a percent—of just the appropriated accounts—perhaps as low as a quarter of a percent. I have not done the arithmetic, but almost unnoticeable in the cuts and restraints and reductions that we are going to have to make.

Mr. GREGG. So, if the Senator will yield for an additional question, Madam President, if you wish to undertake real budget savings, what you should be doing is supporting the rescission package that is coming forward and then work with the President to take the \$13 billion of additional cuts and maybe raise it up to a level that is a real reduction in spending so we move toward a balanced budget over 5 years?

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, the Senator is absolutely correct. Let me be precise. The President is trying to make a case for deficit reduction. He is talking about \$13 billion in reductions over the next 5 years.

What the President really ought to be doing is to be saying loud and clear: "I compliment the House and Senate for a rescission package, and I hope you send it to me quickly." And he ought to be saying, "I will sign it," because it will accomplish in 6 months as much savings as he pledges in 5 years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I certainly do not intend to get into a debate with the very learned chairman of the Budget Committee, but I think, in fairness to the White House, you have to give him credit for what he is doing. It may not be all that everyone wants, but I think the fact that the Federal payroll has been cut by some 150,000 people since he has been President, and this will be the third year in a row that we have had a decline in the deficit, the first time in some 50 years this has happened—we all know he has significant problems with the deficit.

In the balanced budget amendment that they established were three things. They established, No. 1, that we have a problem with the deficit; No. 2, we have to do something about it; and, No. 3, we need to do it and not burden Social Security.

I am not going to get into a long debate with my friend from New Mexico other than to say I think we have to give the President credit for having taken a number of steps that are important in the overall need to balance the budget. It is not going to be done in one fell swoop. It is going to be a series of small things that add up to something big. And the work that the President and the Vice President did yesterday—and the Vice President was given another 60-odd days to report to the President on some other things—needs to be done. Let us give them credit for making good-faith efforts to solve the

crisis and the problems that face this country.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REGULATORY TRANSITION ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 414 TO AMENDMENT NO. 410

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Agriculture to issue new term permits for grazing on National Forest System lands to replace previously issued term grazing permits that have expired, soon will expire, or are waived to the Secretary, and for other purposes)

Mr. REID. Madam President, in behalf of the minority leader, the Senator from South Dakota, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. DASCHLE, proposes an amendment numbered 414 to amendment No. 410.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

TITLE —TERM GRAZING PERMITS

SEC. 01. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") administers the 191,000,000-acre National Forest System for multiple uses in accordance with Federal law;

(2) where suitable, 1 of the recognized multiple uses for National Forest System land is grazing by livestock;

(3) the Secretary authorizes grazing through the issuance of term grazing permits that have terms of not to exceed 10 years and that include terms and conditions necessary for the proper administration of National Forest System land and resources;

(4) as of the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary has issued approximately 9,000 term grazing permits authorizing grazing on approximately 90,000,000 acres of National Forest System land;

(5) of the approximately 9,000 term grazing permits issued by the Secretary, approximately one-half have expired or will expire by the end of 1996;

(6) if the holder of an expiring term grazing permit has complied with the terms and conditions of the permit and remains eligible and qualified, that individual is considered to be a preferred applicant for a new term grazing permit in the event that the Secretary determines that grazing remains an appropriate use of the affected National Forest System land;

(7) in addition to the approximately 9,000 term grazing permits issued by the Secretary, it is estimated that as many as 1,600 term grazing permits may be waived by permit holders to the Secretary in favor of a

purchaser of the permit holder's permitted livestock or base property by the end of 1996;

(8) to issue new term grazing permits, the Secretary must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other laws;

(9) for a large percentage of the grazing permits that will expire or be waived to the Secretary by the end of 1996, the Secretary has devised a strategy that will result in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and other applicable laws (including regulations) in a timely and efficient manner and enable the Secretary to issue new term grazing permits, where appropriate;

(10) for a small percentage of the grazing permits that will expire or be waived to the Secretary by the end of 1996, the strategy will not provide for the timely issuance of new term grazing permits; and

(11) in cases in which ranching operations involve the use of a term grazing permit issued by the Secretary, it is essential for new term grazing permits to be issued in a timely manner for financial and other reasons.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to ensure that grazing continues without interruption on National Forest System land in a manner that provides long-term protection of the environment and improvement of National Forest System rangeland resources while also providing short-term certainty to holders of expiring term grazing permits and purchasers of a permit holder's permitted livestock or base property.

SEC. 02. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) EXPIRING TERM GRAZING PERMIT.—The term "expiring term grazing permit" means a term grazing permit—

(A) that expires in 1995 or 1996; or

(B) that expired in 1994 and was not replaced with a new term grazing permit solely because the analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other applicable laws has not been completed.

(2) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—The term "final agency action" means agency action with respect to which all available administrative remedies have been exhausted.

(3) TERM GRAZING PERMIT.—The term "term grazing permit" means a term grazing permit or grazing agreement issued by the Secretary under section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752), section 19 of the Act entitled "An Act to facilitate and simplify the work of the Forest Service, and for other purposes", approved April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the "Granger-Thye Act") (16 U.S.C. 580I), or other law.

SEC. 03. ISSUANCE OF NEW TERM GRAZING PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary shall issue a new term grazing permit without regard to whether the analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other applicable laws has been completed, or final agency action respecting the analysis has been taken—

(1) to the holder of an expiring term grazing permit; or

(2) to the purchaser of a term grazing permit holder's permitted livestock or base property if—

(A) between January 1, 1995, and December 1, 1996, the holder has waived the term grazing permit to the Secretary pursuant to section 222.3(c)(1)(iv) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations; and