

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(a) consumers immediately receive the benefit of the repeal of the 4.3-cent increase in the transportation motor fuels excise tax rates enacted by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, and

(B) transportation motor fuels producers and other dealers take such actions as necessary to reduce transportation motor fuels prices to reflect the repeal of such tax increase, including immediate credits to consumers accounts representing tax refunds allowed as credits against excise tax deposit payments under the floor stocks refund provisions of this Act.

(2) STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Attorney General of the United States and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall conduct a study of fuel prices during June, July, and August of 1996 to determine whether there has been a pass-through of the repeal of the 4.3-cent increase in the fuel tax imposed by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation of 1993.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 1996, the Secretary of Energy shall report to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).

SPECTRUM AUCTION

SEC. .SPECTRUM AUCTIONS.

(a) COMMISSION OBLIGATION TO MAKE ADDITIONAL SPECTRUM AVAILABLE BY AUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Communications Commission shall complete all actions necessary to permit the assignment, by March 31, 1998, by competitive bidding pursuant to section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)) of licenses for the use of bands of frequencies that—

(A) individually span not less than 12.5 megahertz, unless a combination of smaller bands can, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (7) of such section, reasonably be expected to produce greater receipts;

(B) in the aggregate span not less than 25 megahertz;

(C) are located below 3 gigahertz; and

(D) have not, as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) been assigned or designated by Commission regulation for assignment pursuant to such section;

(ii) been identified by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to section 113 of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 923); or

(iii) reserved for Federal Government use pursuant to section 305 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 305).

(2) CRITERIA FOR REASSIGNMENT.—In making available bands of frequencies for competitive bidding pursuant to paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) seek to promote the most efficient use of the spectrum;

(B) take into account the cost to incumbent licensees of relocating existing uses to other bands of frequencies or other means of communication;

(C) take into account the needs of public safety radio services;

(D) comply with the requirements of international agreements concerning spectrum allocations; and

(E) take into account the costs to satellite service providers that could result from multiple auctions of like spectrum internationally for global satellite systems.

(b) FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MAY NOT TREAT THIS SECTION AS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.—The Federal Communication Commission may

not treat the enactment of this Act or the inclusion of this section in this Act as an expression of the intent of Congress with respect to the award of initial licenses of construction permits for Advanced Television Services, as described by the Commission in its letter of February 1, 1996, to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SEC. . AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

Section 660 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7270) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” Before “APPROPRIATIONS”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) FISCAL YEARS 1997 THROUGH 2002.—There are authorized to be appropriated for salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy for departmental administration and other activities in carrying out the purposes of this Act—

“(1) \$104,000,000 for fiscal year 1997;

“(2) \$104,000,000 for fiscal year 1998;

“(3) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;

“(4) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

“(5) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2001; and

“(6) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.”.

TITLE —TEAMWORK AND MINIMUM WAGE

SEC. 01. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the escalating demands of global competition have compelled an increasing number of American employers to make dramatic changes in workplace and employer-employee relationships;

(2) these changes involve an enhanced role for the employee in workplace decisionmaking, often referred to as “employee involvement”, which has taken many forms, including self-managed work teams, quality-of-worklife, quality circles, and joint labor-management committees;

(3) employee involvement structures, which operate successfully in both unionized and non-unionized settings, have been established by over 80 percent of the largest employers of the United States and exist in an estimated 30,000 workplaces;

(4) in addition to enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of American businesses, employee involvement structures have had a positive impact on the lives of those employees, better enabling them to reach their potential in their working lives;

(5) recognizing that foreign competitors have successfully utilized employee involvement techniques, Congress has consistently joined business, labor and academic leaders in encouraging and recognizing successful employee involvement structures in the workplace through such incentives as the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award;

(6) employers who have instituted legitimate employee involvement structures have not done so to interfere with the collective bargaining rights guaranteed by the labor laws, as was the case in the 1930s when employers established deceptive sham “company unions” to avoid unionization; and

(7) employee involvement is currently threatened by interpretations of the prohibition against employer-dominated “company unions”.

(b) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this Act to—

(1) protect legitimate employee involvement structures against governmental interference;

(2) preserve existing protections against deceptive, coercive employer practices; and

(3) permit legitimate employee involvement structures where workers may discuss issues involving terms and conditions of em-

ployment, to continue to evolve and proliferate.

SEC. 02. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 8(a)(2) OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

Section 8(a)(2) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: “Provided further, That it shall not constitute or be evidence of an unfair labor practice under this paragraph for an employer to establish, assist, maintain or participate in any organization or entity of any kind, in which employees participate to address matters of mutual interest (including issues of quality, productivity and efficiency) and which does not have, claim or seek authority to negotiate or enter into collective bargaining agreements under this Act with the employer or to amend existing collective bargaining agreements between the employer and any labor organization;”.

SEC. 03. CONSTRUCTION CLAUSE LIMITING EFFECT OF ACT.

Nothing in the amendment made by section 3 shall be construed as affecting employee rights and responsibilities under the National Labor Relations Act other than those contained in section 8(a)(2) of such Act.

SEC. 04. 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, 1996, not less than \$4.70 an hour during the year beginning July 4, 1996, and not less than \$5.15 an hour after July 3, 1997;”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, May 16, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to review S. 621, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Great Western Trail for potential addition to the National Trails System; H.R. 531, a bill to designate the Great Western Scenic Trail as a study trail under the National Trails System Act; S. 1049, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route from Selma to Montgomery as a National Historic Trail; S. 1706, a bill to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for assistance for highway relocation with respect to the Chicamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Georgia; S. 1725, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to create a third category of long-distance trails to be known as national discovery trails and to authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first national discovery trail.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify

by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Jim O'Toole of the subcommittee staff at (202) 224-5161.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold hearings regarding Russian organized crime in the United States.

This hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 1996, in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Harold Damelin or Daniel S. Gelber of the subcommittee staff at 224-3721.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be permitted to meet Wednesday, May 8, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SH-215, to conduct a markup on international trade bills.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 8, 1996, at 10:30 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 8, 1996, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 8, 1996, beginning at 9:30 a.m. until business is completed, to hold a hearing on campaign finance reform.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs would like to request unanimous consent to hold a hearing on veterans' health care eligibility priorities. The hearing will be held on May 8, 1996, at 10 a.m., in

room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 8, 1996, at 2:45 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE WHITEWATER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND RELATED MATTERS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 8, and Thursday, May 9, 1996, to conduct hearings pursuant to Senate Resolution 120.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Youth Violence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 8, 1996, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on "Youth Violence: Oversight of Federal Programs."

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RON BROWN'S SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I wish to reflect briefly on the loss of life and tremendous talent our Nation suffered when, only days before Easter Sunday, 33 Americans—leaders in business and Government—perished in a storm off the coast of Croatia.

Each of these individuals was strongly committed to the idea that economic renewal is critical to achieving peace in that desperately war-torn land. Compassion for others in need drew all of them on their mission to the Balkans in an effort to help heal that desperate corner of the globe.

I particularly want to remember U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown. Charismatic and energetic, he inevitably devoted himself to the task at hand with all his heart and mind. His enthusiasm for public service was only equaled by an amazing ability to attain his goals. He lived the American success story by proving that everyone, through hard work and determination can achieve their heart's desire.

Ron Brown's immense personal popularity made his untimely death all the more sorrowful.

Born in Washington, DC, but raised in New York's Harlem, Secretary

Brown attended Middlebury College in Vermont where he was the only black student in his class. After graduation he joined the U.S. Army and, serving as an officer, proudly represented his country abroad.

Following his military career he worked as a welfare caseworker in New York City while attending law school at night. An individual of enormous charm and wit, Ron Brown became the first African-American leader of a major political party in the United States. Regarding this historical achievement he stated, "I did not run on the basis of race, but I will not run away from it. I am proud of who I am."

President Clinton named Ron Brown to serve as U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the first African-American to occupy that post. He performed its duties with wisdom, dedication, and conscientious attention to detail. Secretary Brown more than anyone else in Government, gave business a seat at the diplomatic table. Because of his friendship with and access to the President, the State Department was on constant notice that if our economic efforts overseas were not represented, Ron Brown stood ready to serve as their advocate.

Representing the United States around the world, he was America's premier salesman for what we have to offer—equality, opportunity, and abundance.

This April, bravely undertaking a mission into what had recently been a war zone and still was a potentially hostile region, Ron Brown proved to the world what those who knew him always took for granted: that he cared less for his personal safety than for the good of the people who live there.

In his own wonderful way, Ron Brown served as a peacekeeper. Working to establish international trade and business in the region, he offered its people the opportunity to rebuild a civil society.

Yes, the United States lost 33 lives, 33 talented individuals, each with an unlimited potential to achieve.

But we as a nation have also gained 33 luminous examples of ultimate dedication and compassion. These bright stars of self-sacrifice form an American constellation which can, if we let it, guide us forward with generosity and courage toward a better tomorrow for ourselves and all of our neighbors.●

ROBERT BELOUS

• Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Robert Belous who, since January 1991, has served as the superintendent of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Louisiana. Bob is retiring from the Park Service after more than 25 years of service and we in Louisiana will miss him very much.

Bob Belous has been an outstanding park superintendent and public servant. He has enthusiastically embraced a number of innovative and creative