

about 5 minutes on this amendment. I offer this amendment on behalf of Senator JEFFORDS and myself, an amendment that does not have anything to do with aviation, but we need a vehicle on a bill that is eminently sound and is really needed.

Mr. President, we have right now \$3 trillion worth of pension funds that are backed by ERISA. Of those \$3 trillion, better than \$2 billion, almost \$2.1 billion, are adequately audited.

The GAO and the inspector general of the Department of Labor say that we should do away with what is called the limited scope audit. Now, what is a limited scope audit? A limited scope audit permits a bank or an insurance company simply to sign a statement to a pension fund, saying we have \$300 million in assets, period. This bill does away with that because we have \$950 billion worth of taxpayer funds at risk if we do not modify this. That is what GAO tells us and this bill is what GAO has recommended.

Let me just add, this does not require the pension fund to go in an audit. I assume a bank or an insurance company will have their own auditor. This simply says we need an audit report, not simply a one-line statement saying that they have so many million dollars in assets.

Let me just read one section here: "If an accountant is offering his opinion under this section in the case of an employee pension benefit plan, the accountant shall, to the extent consistent with generally accepted auditing standards, rely on the work of any independent public accountant of any bank or similar institution or insurance carrier regulated and supervised and subject to periodic"—and so forth.

So we permit those institutions to use their own audits.

I was stunned, frankly, when I heard that we do not have adequate auditing on \$950 billion worth of employee pension funds. That is what this takes care of. The accounting profession is for it. People who have examined this are astounded that we have not done it before. I understand the reluctance on the part of the Senator from Arizona to take an amendment that has nothing to do with aviation. But if we are going to protect the taxpayers on this—and I know my friend from South Dakota, the Presiding Officer, wants to protect the taxpayers, the Senator from Kentucky does, and all of us do—this is a chance to do it.

I hope that this will be accepted when we vote tomorrow.

Mr. President, unless anyone has any questions or anyone seeks the floor, 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. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, at this time, I ask unanimous consent that all amendments that are on the list submitted earlier under a unanimous-consent agreement be filed by 11 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. President, before you rule on that, I want to point out that that does not preclude extended debate. There are no time limits involved in that. It simply requires that the amendments on the list be filed by the hour of 11 a.m. tomorrow morning.

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

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, again, I remind my colleagues that there are still a number of these amendments on the list. I believe that a large number of them have been taken care of in the managers' amendment. But both the majority leader and the Democratic leader have stated that we won't stay on this bill more than an hour or so in order to dispense with it and get final passage.

I want to also thank, again, my dear friend from Kentucky for all of his help tonight, and, hopefully, he and I will be able to conclude this legislation tomorrow at a very early time.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I am glad to cooperate with my friend in getting any kind of objections to his unanimous-consent agreement worked out. I think we are at a position where, if we just sit down and be reasonable tomorrow, we can move very quickly. I hope that the majority leader will not entertain the notion to pull this bill down if we can't finish it in an hour or so tomorrow. I think there is too much in this bill, and we have worked too hard and come too far for that even to be considered.

I hope that we can go ahead and move this bill and move it expeditiously, and that we are not in a position where we have to do it in an hour or hour and a half or 2 hours. On the other hand, I think as amendments are offered we should attempt to try to limit each of those amendments by some time agreement as it relates to the amendment being considered at the time. Or we might work our list. We could work our list tomorrow and see how much time would be needed by each presenter, and maybe we could have a time agreement or a UC early tomorrow.

I will attempt to look at these amendments and see if there is a time agreement. I am going to call some of the Senators and say, "Your amendment is in the managers' amendment. There was nothing wrong with it, so your name gets scratched." So I am going to proceed on that basis and attempt to help my friend and see if we can't secure some time agreements prior to 11 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. McCAIN. I thank my friend. Mr. President, just to clarify, there is also permitted under this UC—because it is not precluded—second-degree amendments that are relevant. So my colleagues, I hope, will not make use of that.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

HONORING THE EKENS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Madam President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of till death do us part seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Truman and Dorothy Eken of Sedalia, MO, who on August 25, 1996 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Truman and Dorothy's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, September 16, the Federal debt stood at \$5,217,327,143,659.08.

Five years ago, September 16, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,624,324,000,000.

Ten years ago, September 16, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,106,332,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, September 16, 1981, the Federal debt stood at \$981,709,000,000.

Twenty-five years ago, September 16, 1971, the Federal debt stood at \$415,132,000,000. This reflects an increase of more than \$4 trillion (\$4,802,195,143,659.08) during the 25 years from 1971 to 1996.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HANK BROWN

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, our friend and colleague from Colorado, Senator HANK BROWN, will be leaving at the end of the 104th Congress after only one term in the Senate. But, he will nevertheless leave a lasting legacy of accomplishment that matches that of others who have served here for far longer periods. I have had the pleasure of serving with HANK on the Judiciary Committee during the last few years. His leadership on that committee and his contributions to our sometimes controversial debates were always thoughtful, analytical, fair, and respectful. He has been firm in his beliefs

and opinions, but never failed to listen and consider those of the other members of the committee.

Senator BROWN has also been an outstanding leader on military, foreign policy, trade, budgetary, and a host of other issues. I was especially impressed with his efforts to resolve the dispute with Pakistan over certain weapons transfers. He was able to forge a compromise between the administration and Congress which serves our national interests as well as those of India and Pakistan. He has covered a great deal of public policy territory during his relatively short tenure in the Senate.

HANK BROWN was born in Denver, CO, on February 12, 1940. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado in 1961 and his law degree from there in 1969. He began his career as an accountant. He received a master of tax law degree from the George Washington University here in Washington in 1986, while serving in the House of Representatives.

The future Senator from Colorado served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1966, including service as a forward air controller in Vietnam. He was awarded the Air Medal with two gold stars, the Vietnam Service Medal, Naval Unit Citation, and National Defense Medal. He served in the Colorado State Senate from 1972 to 1976, where he was the assistant majority leader for 2 years. In 1973, he was named "Outstanding Young Man of Colorado."

In 1980, he was elected to the House of Representatives, serving there until his election to the Senate in 1990. While he was in the House, he sponsored the first wild and scenic river designation for the Cache La Poudre River, and worked to expand the Rocky Mountain National Park. He also sought tougher child support enforcement mechanisms and specialized in ethics issues as a member of the House Ethics Committee. Likewise, he has been an outspoken leader in urging Congress to be covered by the civil rights and labor laws it imposed on others. The Congressional Accountability Act, which passed the Congress and was signed into law in early 1995, was due in large measure to his efforts on this issue.

Senator HANK BROWN has been a true friend to the people of Colorado and an outstanding legislator who consistently strived to do what was best for the Nation. His presence will be sorely missed when the next Congress convenes early next year, but I join my colleagues in congratulating and commending him for his public service and in wishing him and his family well as he moves on to the next phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR WILLIAM S. COHEN

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, our distinguished colleague from Maine, Senator WILLIAM COHEN, will be leaving the Senate at the end of the 104th Con-

gress. His departure will leave a void for his State of Maine and for the Nation that will be extremely difficult to fill. We were both first elected to the Senate in 1978 and will now be leaving together. He has been a true friend and a wonderful colleague to serve with over these last 18 years.

In addition to being an outstanding Senator and leader on a wide range of issues, Senator COHEN is an accomplished poet and spy novelist in his own right. Among his books are: "Of Sons and Seasons," "Roll Call," "Getting the Most Out of Washington," "The Double Man," which he wrote with former Senator Gary Hart, "A Baker's Nickel," "Men of Zeal," which he wrote with former Maine Senator and Majority Leader George Mitchell, "One-Eyed Kings," and "Murder in the Senate."

Altogether, Senator COHEN will have served for 25 years in Congress when he retires. Born in 1940, his father was a baker in Bangor, ME. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Bowdoin College in 1962 and his law degree from Boston University 3 years later. He later became the assistant county attorney for Maine's Penobscot County and was elected vice president of the Maine Trial Lawyers Association in the early 1970's. He was the mayor of Bangor, ME and a fellow at the John F. Kennedy Institute of Politics. He was elected to the 93d Congress on November 7, 1972, and served in the House until his election to the Senate 6 years later.

As a Member of Congress, WILLIAM COHEN has not been afraid to break with his party when his conscience dictated it. Overall, he has been a leading advocate of a more assertive American defense posture. This was his view long before the defense build-up of the 1980's. As a Senate candidate in 1978, his platform was military preparedness and when he arrived here, he immediately got a seat on the Armed Services Committee. He opposed the SALT II Treaty, strongly supported President Reagan's defense build-up, and spoke out against the nuclear freeze. He condemned Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq for using chemical weapons long before the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and in July of that year was instrumental in the debate over sanctions against Iraq. He served as vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee during the late 1980's, working closely with its chairman, Senator David Boren. He also served on the Iran-contra committee, on which I served as well.

On trade issues, he has been for free but fair trade. He has worked to ban the import of underweight lobsters and opposed the American-Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

Senator COHEN is known as somewhat of a maverick, but there is no question that he put the concerns of his country and State at the top of his agenda. There is a great need for mavericks—really, I should call them independents.

There is also no question that his sincere interest and leadership in public policy issues at the national level has led to many benefits for the American people in general. He will be sorely missed after he leaves the Senate early next year, but I join my colleagues in wishing him and his lovely wife, Janet Langhart-Cohen, well as he embarks on a new phase of his life. I also look forward to reading more of his novels in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 7:53 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment.

S. 677. An act to repeal a redundant venue provision, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2679) to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1997" (Rept. No. 104-370).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

The following named officers for promotion in the line in the Navy of the United States to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

UNRESTRICTED LINE OFFICER

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Daniel R. Bowler, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy.

Capt. John E. Boyington, Jr., 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy.

Capt. John T. Byrd, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy.

Capt. John V. Chenevey, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy.