

SEC. 10. NON-FEDERAL SHARE.

The non-Federal share under section 4 shall be 25 percent of—

(1) the amount allocated in the total project construction budget for the planning and construction of the water supply system under section 4; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to defray increases in development costs reflected in appropriate engineering cost indices after March 1, 1995.

SEC. 11. CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary may provide construction oversight to the water supply system for areas of the water supply system.

(b) **PROJECT OVERSIGHT ADMINISTRATION.**—The amount of funds used by the Secretary for planning and construction of the water supply system may not exceed an amount equal to 3 percent of the amount provided in the total project construction budget for the portion of the project to be constructed in Perkins County, South Dakota.

SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) \$15,000,000 for the planning and construction of the water system under section 4; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to defray increases in development costs reflected in appropriate engineering cost indices after March 1, 1995.

EXTENDING DEADLINE UNDER FEDERAL POWER ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4081, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4081) to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Arkansas.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4081) was considered read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1998

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 8. I further ask unanimous consent that the time for the two leader be reserved.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. I further ask unanimous consent that there then be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the VA-HUD conference report, and that there be 1 hour for debate equally divided on the report. I further ask that at 11 a.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the adoption of the conference report.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, on Thursday, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of the VA-HUD conference report under a 1-hour time agreement. At 11 a.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on the adoption of the VA-HUD conference report.

Following that vote, the Senate may resume consideration of the Internet tax bill or begin consideration of the intelligence authorization conference report, the human services reauthorization conference report and possibly the Treasury-Postal appropriations conference report. The Senate may also consider any other available conference reports or other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

Once again, the leader would like to stress to all Members that there are only a few days remaining in which to complete many important legislative items. Therefore, Members are encouraged to be flexible to accommodate a busy schedule, with votes occurring throughout each day and into the evenings.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of the Senator from Hawaii, the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Hawaii for his usual courtesy in allowing me to proceed with this closing business. I thank my dear friend from Hawaii. I yield the floor.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, for the last year or so, both the House and Senate have been working on legislation that would reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has reported legislation offered by my colleague from Idaho, Senator KEMPTHORNE, that would modify the

Act in significant ways. Although it is unlikely that we will take up this bill in the short time remaining to us, I would like to make a few observations about the Endangered Species Act and what it has meant to Hawaii, home to more endangered species than any other state or territory within the United States.

Mr. President, as legislators, we are guardians of our Nation's rich natural inheritance; in this capacity, we cannot afford to squander the ecological legacy we leave to our children. Surely, part of our concern for rare species and ecosystems is the simple realization that once they are gone, we would have failed in our stewardship responsibility. Hawaii is poised on the brink of irreversible ecological change, and it is important that wise stewardship decisions be rendered to preserve our unique, tropical ecosystem.

The term "ecosystem" has become a political buzzword and does not adequately described the delicate checks and balances that make up the natural world. The basis of Hawaii's natural system begins not with a list of threatened plants and animals, but with the unique origin of the islands. For millions of years, lava welling out from the earth's mantle cooled upon the ocean floor, gradually forming the Hawaiian islands, one by one, a process that is ongoing even today. As one island moves away from the influence of a "hot spot" in the middle of the Pacific, another island is born. Each island is the peak of a volcanic mountain, with its base hidden far below the surface of the ocean. Only a few types of birds, insects, and plants were able to colonize the remote islands, and these few evolved into scores or even hundreds of unique species. The islands sheltered no large land mammals or reptiles, only creatures that have gradually lost their natural defenses against such predators.

The Endangered Species Act is critical to this unique, insular ecosystem. There are, 1,126 total U.S. species listed by Fish and Wildlife Service under protection of the ESA, and although its islands represent just two-tenths of one percent of the total U.S. land area, Hawaii is home to more rare and endangered species than any other state or territory. In addition, three-fourths of the nation's now extinct plants and birds once existed only in Hawaii. Hawaii has an astounding 363 listed endangered species. Only California, with 223 listed species, rivals Hawaii in the number of listed endangered species. The Pacific islands, not including Hawaii, have a total of 16 listed endangered species.

The causes of Hawaiian species decline are numerous and complicated, but the most significant threats come from non-native animals that uproot and devour fragile native plants. Feral pigs, rats, and mongooses not only physically destroy plants, but spread the seeds of aggressive alien plants such as the South American banana