

Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to undertake activities to halt and reverse the decline in forest health on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 426

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 426, a bill to authorize the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to establish a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 82—TO PETITION THE STATES TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE OF THE STATES

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 82

Whereas Article I of the Constitution of the United States of America provides that the Congress is vested with the authority to lay and collect taxes, to pay the debts of the United States, to borrow money on the credit of the United States, and to appropriate money from the Treasury;

Whereas for the past quarter century Congress has been unable to balance the Nation's budget in any year;

Whereas the President of the United States has submitted a budget which increases the deficit in future years;

Whereas Members of Congress have been unable to agree on language for an Amendment to the Constitution which would require a balanced budget; and

Whereas Congress has therefore attempted to deny the several States of the United States the opportunity to vote on a Constitutional Amendment requiring a balanced budget: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress hereby petitions the several States of the United States of America to convene a Conference of the States for the express and exclusive purpose of drafting an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring a balanced budget and prohibiting the imposition of unfunded mandates on the States, and that such States then consider whether it is necessary for the States to convene a Constitutional Convention pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States in order to adopt such Amendment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 83—RELATIVE TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. BUMPERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one committee reports, the other committee have 30 days to report or be discharged:

S. RES. 83

Whereas the Federal budget according to the most recent estimates of the Congressional Budget Office continues to be in deficit in excess of \$190 billion;

Whereas continuing annual Federal budget deficits add to the Federal debt which soon is projected to exceed \$5 trillion;

Whereas continuing Federal budget deficits and growing Federal debt reduce savings and capital formation;

Whereas continuing Federal budget deficits contribute to a higher level of interest rates than would otherwise occur, raising capital costs and curtailing total investment;

Whereas continuing Federal budget deficits also contribute to significant trade deficits and dependence on foreign capital;

Whereas the Federal debt that results from persistent Federal deficits transfers a potentially crushing burden to future generations, making their living standards lower than they otherwise would have been;

Whereas efforts to reduce the Federal deficit should be among the highest economic priorities of the 104th Congress; and,

Whereas enacting across-the-board or so-called middle class tax cut measures could impede efforts during the 104th Congress to significantly reduce the Federal deficit:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the Senate that reducing the Federal deficit should be one of the nation's highest priorities, that enacting an across-the-board so-called middle class tax cut during the 104th Congress would hinder efforts to significantly reduce the Federal deficit.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to join with the senior Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] to submit a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that enacting an across-the-board or so-called middle-class tax cut during the 104th Congress would hinder efforts to reduce the Federal deficit.

Mr. President, though I would certainly like to support a tax cut measure, especially one that provides a Well Deserved tax break to middle-class Americans, supporting that kind of proposal is simply not responsible right now, especially given the recent developments with respect to the balanced budget amendment.

During a month of telling debate on the proposal, we have not done one thing that will actually help us achieve the widely shared goal of a balanced budget.

Mr. President, it is time we did.

We have been making some headway in reducing the deficit.

President Clinton's 1993 deficit reduction package was a critical turning point in our fight to reduce the deficit, and we are now in the third straight year of progressively lower deficits.

However, we need to do more, and I firmly believe we not only undermine those needed future efforts but could also jeopardize the progress we have already made if we rush along now and do tax cuts.

Mr. President, let me emphasize that my opposition to tax cuts is bipartisan—the tax cut proposals of both parties are wrong.

I publicly opposed the President's proposed tax cuts the same day he even announced them.

An I think opposition to the tax cuts proposals of both parties has bipartisan support.

In fact, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Senator from Oregon [Mr. PACKWOOD], the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr.

CHAFEE], and the Senator from Maine [Mr. COHEN] for their support of a similar effort that I made as part of the debate on the balanced budget amendment.

Their support was particularly heartening, and I think it reveals a growing consensus that deficit reduction must be a higher priority than tax cuts right now.

As part of his fiscal year 1996 budget, the President, has proposed about \$63 billion in tax cut over the next 5 years, and that is a figure that grows to \$174 billion over 10 years.

Even more troubling the Republican contract with America has proposed tax cuts totaling \$196 billion over 5 years and the whopping figure of \$704 billion over 10 years.

To me, all of those figures represent the cost of a lost opportunity.

The President's tax cuts are part of his budget package, and he has indicated that they are more than offset by \$184 billion in spending cuts.

And at least some of those supporting the Republican Contract With America tax cut package have indicated they too would be offsetting the cost of those tax cuts with spending cuts.

However, even if they are fully offset—I hope we would agree that to be an absolute minimum requirement—we would do much better to forego those tax cuts.

Eliminating the President's tax cut proposals, while doing nothing else to his budget, would result in \$72 billion in additional deficit reduction over the next 5 years—the \$63 billion in foregone tax cuts plus \$9 billion in interest savings.

Just doing that, and nothing more, would produce a Federal budget deficit of \$170 billion in fiscal year 2000, \$24 billion lower than the \$194 billion projected as part of the President's budget.

In fact, the figures for the Contract With America tax cuts are very dramatic.

Assuming spending cuts are produced to offset that tax cut package, and then assuming we decided not to adopt those tax cuts, doing nothing else to the President's budget would result in \$217 billion in additional deficit reduction over the next 5 years—\$196 billion in foregone tax cuts plus \$21 billion in interest savings.

Just doing that, and nothing more, would produce a Federal budget deficit of \$114 billion in the year 2000, \$80 billion less than what the President projected.

Over 10 years, just under this scenario, we would save \$178 billion in interest costs alone by not adopting the Contract With America tax cut package, and could produce \$882 billion in deficit reduction.

Let me conclude by noting that tax cut proposals are grounded in the old politics of the free lunch—promise the people a tax cut and a balanced budget.

It is the kind of politics that created the fiscal mess which now confronts us and undermined the American people's faith in their Government.

By resisting calls for tax cuts, we not only help alleviate pressure on the deficit, we also can begin to restore the lost confidence of the American people in their elected officials.

I hope other members will join Senator BUMPERS and me in persuading a majority of the Senate that it is irresponsible to cut taxes as we are trying to reduce the deficit and balance the Federal budget.

SENATE RESOLUTION 84—RELATIVE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA STATEHOOD

Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 84

Whereas Florida became the first State explored by Europeans when Ponce de Leon led a Spanish expedition that made landfall along the east coast in the year 1513;

Whereas Pedro Menendez de Aviles, captain-general of an invading fleet, ousted the French settlement, Fort Caroline, at the mouth of the St. Johns River, proclaimed Spanish sovereignty over Florida, and on September 8, 1565, established St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States;

Whereas Spain, France, and England played a significant role in the development and exploration of early Florida;

Whereas President James Monroe proclaimed the Adams-Onis Treaty in which Spain ceded Florida to the United States on February 22, 1821, and appointed General Andrew Jackson as the first provisional governor of Florida;

Whereas on March 30, 1822, the United States Congress created a territorial government for Florida, following the pattern set in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 by providing for public education and orderly political steps toward greater self-government and eventual statehood as population increased;

Whereas 56 delegates representing the 30 counties of Florida assembled in 1838 in the Panhandle town of St. Joseph to frame the first constitution of the territory in preparation for Florida statehood, who were mainly planters and lawyers, were from 13 of the 26 States then in the United States and 4 foreign countries, included only 3 natives from Florida, included 3 delegates who would later become United States Senators, included 2 governors, and included 5 members of the Florida Supreme Court;

Whereas a bill to admit Florida as a State passed the House of Representatives on February 13, 1845, and the Senate on March 1, 1845;

Whereas President John Tyler signed a bill making Florida a State on March 3, 1845, making Florida the 27th State to be admitted into the United States;

Whereas Friday, March 3, 1995, marks the 150th anniversary of Florida becoming a State;

Whereas the admission of Florida to the United States has proved to be of immense benefit both to the United States and to the State of Florida;

Whereas 96 citizens of Florida have served the United States and Florida in the House of Representatives;

Whereas 30 citizens of Florida have served the United States and Florida in the United States Senate;

Whereas numerous citizens of Florida have served in the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the Federal Government;

Whereas citizens of Florida have fought and died in service to the United States, and 22 citizens of Florida have won the United States highest award for bravery, the Congressional Medal of Honor, protecting freedom in the United States;

Whereas Florida is the fourth largest State and is rich in natural resources and talented people;

Whereas Florida, home of the Everglades National Park, is blessed with great natural beauty, clean waters, pure air, and extraordinary scenery;

Whereas Florida is a world leader in agriculture, commercial fishing, education, financial services, horse breeding, high technology, manufacturing, phosphate production, and tourism;

Whereas Cape Canaveral, location of the first United States satellite launch and the first manned spaceship flight to the Moon, continues to play a vital and leading role in the exploration and discovery of outer space by the United States;

Whereas a special postage stamp saluting the Sesquicentennial of Florida will be circulated throughout the United States during 1995; and

Whereas Florida is proud of its heritage and looks forward to its future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SALUTE BY THE SENATE.

The United States Senate salutes the State of Florida on the sesquicentennial anniversary of Florida becoming a State Friday, March 3, 1995.

SEC. 2. COMMEMORATION BY CONGRESS.

The Senate calls on the joint Congressional leadership of Congress to agree on an appropriate time and manner to honor the State of Florida, in recognition of the achievements of all the men and women who have worked hard to develop Florida into a great State, from pioneer days to modern times.

SEC. 3. COMMEMORATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

The Senate calls on the President to issue a Presidential message calling on the people of the United States and all Federal, State, and local governments to commemorate the sesquicentennial anniversary of Florida becoming a State with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SEC. 4. COPIES OF RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall send this resolution to the Florida Congressional delegation, the Governor of Florida, the National Archives, and the Florida Archives.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, this week marks the anniversary of a very special event in the history of my State.

One hundred and fifty years ago on the 1st of March 1845, the U.S. Senate passed a bill admitting Florida to the Union as the 27th State. President John Tyler signed the bill into law on March 3, 1845.

Tomorrow, March 3, 1995, the State of Florida will celebrate its sesquicentennial.

Florida has a rich history stretching nearly five centuries.

The search for gold and glory brought Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon to Florida during the Easter season of 1513.

He and his crew disembarked between present-day St. Augustine and Cape Canaveral to claim the land in the name of the King of Spain. Ponce de Leon called this new land Florida—a Spanish word meaning “full of flowers.”

From discovery in 1513 to early 1821, Spain, France, and England played significant roles in Florida's exploration and development.

During the territorial period—1821 through 1845—Florida became one of the major cotton producing areas of the region. The struggle for statehood was a major political issue in Washington and throughout the territory of Florida.

David Levy (Yulee), who later became Florida's first U.S. Senator, led the fight to bring Florida into the Union.

Florida's admission to the Union and the contributions of its citizens have proven to be of immense benefit both to the United States and to the State of Florida.

As the United States has grown and prospered Florida has become a world leader in agriculture, commercial fishing, education, financial services, horse breeding, high technology, manufacturing, phosphate production, and tourism.

More than 20 million tourists visit Florida each year to experience the Sunshine State's great natural beauty, her pristine beaches, clean waters, pure air, and extraordinary scenery.

Each region of Florida has its own unique identity. There are vivid contrasts between the excitement of Cape Canaveral and Disney World, the cosmopolitan feel of south Florida, the tropical world of the Florida Keys, the natural beauty of the west coast, the mystery that is the Everglades, the citrus and cattle country of central Florida, and the deep South culture of north Florida and the panhandle.

The marvelous diversity of those who have migrated to Florida seeking a better life for themselves and their families have made the State a microcosm of America itself.

The dedication and innovation of Floridians, both past and present, inspire all of us in Florida as we prepare our State for the challenges of the 21st century.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
RISK MANAGEMENT ACT

LOTT AMENDMENT NO. 316

(Ordered referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.)

Mr. LOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 333) to direct the Secretary of Energy to institute certain procedures in the performance of risk assessments