

East-West tension. But where those improvements that still have value are being returned to the host government, we are entitled to compensation in the form of direct payments or in-kind payments. This amendment should help improve the chances of success in that effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, we have no objections to this amendment. We believe the American people should have a full accounting of the property that our Armed Forces turn over to Germany and should receive a fair return on 50 years of improvements made to these properties. I congratulate Senator LEVIN on his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is all time yielded back?

Mr. THURMOND. We yield our time.
Mr. LEVIN. I yield back the remainder of our time.

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

The amendment (No. 2216) was agreed to.

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator LAUTENBERG of New Jersey be added as an original cosponsor to the residual value amendment which we just agreed to, No. 2216.

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

DISPOSAL OF BONAIRE HOUSING

Mr. COHEN. I would like to bring to the manager's attention a problem with the disposal of surplus property in Presque Isle, ME, from the former Loring Air Force Base. The designated local reuse authority is having difficulty with the Department of Interior in the disposal of the Federal property known as the BonAire Housing Complex. I understand that it is the intention of the chairman to assist the Maine delegation in resolving this matter.

Mr. THURMOND. The Senator from Maine is correct. I will be pleased to work to address this issue in an appropriate manner.

Mr. COHEN. I thank the distinguished Chairman for his assistance on this matter.

Mr. LEVIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMPSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, per the arrangement that I have made with the manager of the bill, Senator STROM THURMOND, I would like to ask unanimous consent at this time that the Senator from Rhode Island be allowed to continue as if in morning business for as much time as he may need, and that following the conclusion of his remarks we return to the regular order.

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague very much.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETIREMENT

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I wish to state that this morning in Providence I announced my decision not to seek reelection to the Senate next year.

This afternoon, I wanted to formally make that decision known to my colleagues, and to share with you all the thoughts I conveyed to my Rhode Island constituents.

This was not an easy decision for me. I regret that it is fashionable today to malign the Congress, to malign the Federal Government, and to malign those of us who serve the public in elective office.

I, however, consider this U.S. Senate a marvelous institution full of talented and committed men and women who, contrary to public belief, are dedicated to serving our constituents and to improving the quality of our national life.

And I continue to believe that government—and the Federal Government in particular—can, should, and does make a positive impact on the lives of most Americans. Federal programs and agencies do not always work perfectly, and many need reform. But they were conceived to help people, and I believe most continue to do so.

When you believe as strongly as I do in the value of good government and see some of its virtues under attack, there is a great temptation to continue to serve and to fight for those values and those programs that we consider vital.

As to my health, I have been assured that there is no medical barrier to my seeking reelection and serving another 6-year term. I feel strong and healthy and continue my 2-mile runs.

However, I decided not to be a candidate for reelection.

There is a natural time for all life's adventures to come to an end, and this period of 36 years would seem to me about the right time for my service in the Senate to end.

I know I will miss more than anything else the people of Rhode Island which it has been my pleasure to serve

these years. They are fine, caring people who put their trust in me all these years, tolerated my eccentricities, and gave me great affection. And I only pray that I repaid their trust and served them faithfully.

And I will particularly miss this wonderful Senate and you, the men and women who serve here. Let me say again, almost without exception, each of us believes he or she can make a positive difference to our Nation's well-being.

This Senate seat from my State has been held for six decades by a forward-thinking Democrat, first by Theodore Francis Green, and then by me. And I want to make it clear today that I am intent on doing all I can to ensure that another progressive Democrat is elected to fill this seat.

And I also plan to do what I can to assist in the reelection of President Clinton, whom I consider a sadly underrated and really quite successful President. He has served our country with intelligence and vision and passion, and I firmly believe he deserves another term.

Beyond that, I have no concrete plans. I will stay active, stay engaged in some kind of public service and will continue to cherish my association with Rhode Island and its wonderful people.

I yield the floor.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be continued for whatever time is necessary for any Senator who wishes to make remarks with regard to the announcement that we have just heard from the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island.

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

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, we have just heard the announcement in the typical style of the great Senator from the State of Rhode Island. Certainly, he has left his mark. I will not be here to miss him at the conclusion of his term but others will miss him. The institution of the Senate will miss him because I can say that I know of no one who has been more forthright in demonstrating to his colleagues in the Senate and the folks that he has so ably represented back home in Rhode Island what a U.S. Senator should be, what a U.S. Senator is all about.

CLAIBORNE PELL has been a man of outstanding character, a very hard-working, dedicated soldier for the Senate and for the United States of America and, of course, for Rhode Island.

Certainly, he has distinguished himself in many areas during his term of service. Most distinguished, I suspect, has been the steady hand he has provided as a very senior member of the