

My point is this: Do not do anything to it unless you guarantee American taxpayers and drivers that they will get the benefit. There is not any way that we guarantee drivers in this country they will get the benefit of lower gasoline taxes at the pump if we are not allowed to offer and if the Senate does not pass the amendment I have described. The amendment is very simple: It would require certification by the oil companies that they have passed along this reduction in the gas tax and a lower pump price, subject to criminal penalties and subject to enforcement by the appropriate people in the Federal Government. We can talk about gas taxes until we are blue in the face and you can repeal gas taxes from now until next month. But if you do not guarantee that drivers in this country get the benefit, guess who will walk off into the sunset with bulging pockets? The oil company.

When I heard this morning the majority leader say we will have a vote on that today, first of all, I do not think we will because it would require unanimous consent to have a vote on the reduction in the gas tax. But, second, I say to Members on the other side who are in charge of planning the activities of the Senate on the floor, when you decide to have a vote, we will insist that you give us the opportunity to offer an amendment that guarantees the drivers and the taxpayers in this country, not the oil industry, get the benefit of the reduction in the gas tax.

One additional point, and it is probably the most important point. We have also talked on the floor of the Senate about the minimum wage. The gas tax is about \$25 or \$27 a year in benefits if the consumers get the benefit, and they will not unless my amendment is passed. The minimum wage means about \$1,800 a year to those folks who are out there, 40 percent of whom are working as a sole breadwinner on minimum wage, trying to make ends meet, having had their wage frozen for 5 years. We are simply saying we want an opportunity, as well, to address the minimum wage issue. We think the minimum wage should be adjusted for those folks.

We have been told that, well, there will be some point at which we will vote on that. We also ask that when the gas tax reduction is brought to the floor of the Senate, we have an opportunity to consider, as well, in those circumstances, a reasonable adjustment of the minimum wage.

So those are the issues that we are going to ask be addressed by the majority leader and other Members of the Senate in the coming couple of days as we discuss these issues.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WALTER S. MONTGOMERY, SR.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, if the Palmetto State is famous for textiles, then Mr. Walter S. Montgomery, Sr., is one of a handful of South Carolinians whose name is synonymous with that industry. Without question, he is a man who has left his mark on our State and Nation, and it is with great sadness that I rise today to note his recent passing.

"Mr. Walter," as he was affectionately known by his friends and employees, died late last month, ending what was a lifelong commitment to service and industry. From the time he took over his family's textile mill to the day he died, Walter Montgomery worked hard to advance textile manufacturing, to strengthen the South Carolina economy, and to improve the quality of life for the South Carolina Upstate, especially his beloved hometown of Spartanburg.

Known as a benevolent boss, Mr. Walter would stroll the floors of his factories in his shirtsleeves, supervising operations and talking with his employees. His interest in those who worked for him extended beyond the plant walls, and he was known to spend afternoons on the front porches of the homes of Spartan Mills workers, passing the time and getting to know those in his employ. Additionally, Walter Montgomery worked hard to create a job place that was modern, clean, and safe, a far cry from the old style mills of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Walter Montgomery joined the family run Spartan Mills shortly after his graduation from the Virginia Military Institute and eventually became its president and chairman of the board. Through his hard work, determination, and business acumen, Spartan Mills grew from 1 plant to 10, and became the largest employer in Spartanburg County. A young and dynamic executive, Mr. Montgomery became a force in the national textile industry and held leadership positions with the South Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association, the J.E. Serrine Foundation, the Institute of Textile Technology, and the American Textile Manufacturers Association. His professional accomplishments earned him recognitions from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, which named him Businessman of the Year; and from the ATMI, their organization's prestigious and coveted Samuel Slater Award.

Equally important to the contributions Mr. Montgomery made to business was the role he filled as a civic leader. Spartanburg and the Upstate Region benefited handsomely from the efforts of Mr. Montgomery who helped to establish the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg; served as a trustee of the Spartanburg Music Foundation and the Spartanburg His-

torical Society; and, organized the Spartanburg County Foundation. He also served for 55 years on the board of trustees at Converse College, was a booster for educational causes, and was an active leader in the United Way. For these undertakings, and many others, Mr. Montgomery was awarded the Order of the Palmetto; inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame; was awarded three honorary degrees; and, was recognized with almost countless citations from various business and community groups.

Mr. President, Walter Montgomery was the type of person that any community or State would be fortunate to have as one of its citizens. I can think of no more fitting tribute to Walter than the fact that he was so well thought of, that hundreds of people came to pay their last respects to this man. As a matter of fact, on the day of his funeral, the Episcopal Church of the Advent was packed to capacity and loudspeakers had to be placed outside the church in order for mourners to be able to hear the service. While we will all miss Walter, I hope that others will honor his legacy by trying to match the example he set for service to business and community. I join a long list of people who express their sympathy and condolences to the family of Mr. Walter Montgomery, including his sisters, Kate Montgomery Ward and Lucile Montgomery Cart; his son, Mr. Walter Montgomery, Jr.; his daughter, Rose M. Johnston; and his many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. These people are kin to a man who was one of a kind.

OMNIBUS PARKS BILL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last Wednesday, the Senate passed H.R. 1296, the omnibus parks bill, by unanimous consent. I recognize that this legislation had indeed gone through the mill. However, I am pleased that we reached this agreement and passed this important bill with strong bipartisan support.

In particular, I want to express my strong support for one title of this bill, the Snowbasin Land Exchange Act, which was included within the bill.

This measure contains provisions that will enable the U.S. Forest Service and the Sun Valley Co. to prepare the Snowbasin Ski Resort, which is located 40 miles north of Salt Lake City, for the major alpine skiing events of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Utah. It also concludes a land exchange process that began more than 11 years ago.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of Senators DOLE and MURKOWSKI, who have worked diligently to forge this package so that this particular measure could pass the Senate and move forward in the legislative process.

As my colleagues know, the International Olympic Committee selected Salt Lake City to host the 2002 Winter

Olympic Games last June. I was honored to be present in Budapest when this announcement was made.

Snowbasin, which is owned by the Sun Valley Co., was identified as the site of six major Olympic downhill and slalom ski events. It was selected due to its magnificent mountain with ideal terrain, elevation, and technical difficulty for Olympic competition.

It is estimated that Olympic racers will reach speeds exceeding 80 miles per hour in the first 5 seconds of competition on the Snowbasin downhill course, a course that has been designed by Bernard Russi of Switzerland, an Olympic medalist and internationally recognized Alpine course designer.

In order to accommodate the planned events at Snowbasin, which are estimated to have a television audience of nearly 3 billion people worldwide, major new skiing, visitor, and support facilities will have to be constructed at Snowbasin. Some of these facilities will be constructed on the ski mountain, while other facilities are needed at the base of the mountain.

Failure to pass the provisions that are included in this bill for Snowbasin would have greatly jeopardized the success of the 2002 Olympic Games and, in general, sullied the reputation of U.S. Olympic hosts before an international audience. So I appreciate the support of my colleagues for these provisions.

My colleagues should understand that this legislation is a land exchange—not a giveaway. The legislation exchanges 1,320 acres of national forest land at the base of Snowbasin to the Sun Valley Co. This transfer will allow development of base facilities that are needed for the Olympics.

These facilities include a new access road, the Olympic stadium and gateway, parking, day lodges, restaurants, and other support buildings. These facilities will greatly increase services and amenities to the public during the Olympics. They will also become the nucleus of a world-class competitive venue at Snowbasin in future years.

It is altogether consistent with Forest Service policy that base lands at ski areas be privatized for development. As my colleagues are well aware, land exchanges have been routinely utilized for this purpose.

In return for the 1,320 acres, the Forest Service will receive more than 4,100 acres of private lands with outstanding environmental, recreational, and other values. Each of these lands has been identified by Forest Service officials as highly desirable for acquisition to benefit the public and the long-term management purposes of the Forest Service in northern Utah.

Some of this acreage is immediately adjacent to Snowbasin; another parcel is on the outskirts of the city of Ogden. In fact, one of the parcels—Lightning Ridge—will open access to thousands of acres of Forest Service land that is currently inaccessible to the public.

These are precisely the types of public benefits that should be realized in

land exchanges. The new Olympic quality recreational opportunities added at Snowbasin, coupled with major additions to the national forest, clearly make the exchange a win-win for the public.

When completed, the land exchange will add over 4 square miles of land to the National Forest System in Utah.

Mr. President, there has been considerable discussion on this bill regarding the so-called sufficiency language in the bill that exempts the initial portions of development at Snowbasin from certain Federal environmental laws. Let me discuss this for my colleagues.

Once the land exchange is completed, the ski mountain will remain as National Forest System land. In order to prepare the ski mountain for the Olympic events, numerous modifications are needed. These modifications are referred to in the overall development plan for Snowbasin as phase I and relate to the race courses for the competitors as well as needed amenities for the public.

These items include new chair lifts, new and expanded courses, helicopter pads for medivac purposes, snowmaking, safety netting, and a mountain restaurant for food and warming purposes. It is estimated that at least three summer construction seasons will be needed to construct these facilities.

Moreover, to enable ski competitors to race the mountain prior to the Olympics, and to test the new facilities for safety and other purposes, international skiing events have been scheduled at Snowbasin beginning in 1999.

I hope my colleagues can see that we must immediately begin the process of preparing Snowbasin for important Olympic and pre-Olympic events.

To accomplish this goal, Congress needs to provide general approval to facilities that need to be constructed on national forest lands at Snowbasin for the Olympics, to put the construction of these facilities on a timetable, and to protect the decisions of the Forest Service during this process from appeals and lawsuits. Without such action, construction of these facilities could be delayed for years. Regrettably, this type of delay is precisely what is currently being experienced at Snowbasin.

A 1994 Forest Service decision to allow construction of a small chair lift and new ski run on the mountain has been appealed and litigated and is now before a Federal district court in Salt Lake City. Construction of the lift has already been delayed for 2 years and the matter could remain in the courts well into the future. Therefore, this legislation allows the construction of traditional mountain facilities at Snowbasin that are needed for important Olympic and pre-Olympic events.

However, my colleagues should realize that over the years, Snowbasin has been subject to numerous environmental studies and reviews. In fact, in

testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, I displayed a huge stack of these studies.

Since 1990, the Forest Service has prepared, among many items, an environmental impact statement and an environmental analysis on base mountain lands at Snowbasin. The public was fully involved in the development of these documents.

The Snowbasin master plan, referenced in the legislation, has been developed taking into full account the environmental considerations noted in these studies. Also, the Sun Valley Company has frequently consulted with the Forest Service to ensure that environmental aspects of the land exchange are properly considered.

Our legislation directs the Secretary of Agriculture to impose construction and operation conditions on the Sun Valley Co. that are consistent with Forest Service policies to protect forest resources. Further, the Forest Service is empowered to make any changes to the facilities to protect public health and safety, including water quality.

I think it is also safe to say that no one would want to visit this area if it were an environmental wreck. There is clearly an economic incentive to doing this the right way. Responsible development of this land is necessary any way you look at it.

Also, we learned from testimony provided by the members of the Salt Lake organizing committee that one of the reasons Snowbasin was selected as the site for the Olympic downhill races was to keep Olympic downhill events from being conducted in the environmentally sensitive canyon areas immediately adjacent to Salt Lake City.

I am pleased to note that the significant addition of land to the National Forest System resulting from this legislation will be accomplished without having to spend scarce land and water conservation fund dollars.

Moreover, our legislation ensures that an equal value exchange in every respect will be conducted, and there will not be a giveaway of any kind to the Sun Valley Company. Instead, the Sun Valley Company will assume the economic risks and costs of preparing Snowbasin to the highest of Olympic standards for the 2002 Winter Games.

Mr. President, I again want to extend my sincere thanks to each member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee—all of whom endorsed this legislation. The efforts of Senators MURKOWSKI, CRAIG, and BUMPERS, and my Utah colleague, Senator BENNETT, have helped to perfect this bill and move it forward.

Again, I want to thank the majority leader for his leadership in solving the impasse that had developed over the earlier version of the omnibus parks bill.

Having said that, I must admit my disappointment that one title of the original package, the Utah wilderness

bill, has been deleted from the bill. I would have preferred that the Senate adopt this measure as well, but I know a roadblock when I see one. I will continue to work on those provisions that could not be included in this package.

However, everyone in this chamber should know that this is a temporary setback for our Utah wilderness bill. Our bill is not dead, as many have said or wished. I am just as committed today as I was during the recent filibuster to see this body pass legislation that resolves this 17-year-old problem that has plagued our State.

As I mentioned, Senator DOLE has demonstrated tremendous leadership to forge the compromise that allowed the omnibus bill to pass, and his suggestion for a temporary detour around the matter of Utah Wilderness and Sterling Forest enables the other important provisions of the omnibus parks bill to move forward, including the Snowbasin exchange. I commend him for that.

Mr. President, Snowbasin will be an electrifying site for the prestigious skiing events of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. The huge challenge that Snowbasin will present to the international competitors will be a true test of their Olympic ability. America is fortunate to be selected as the host nation for these games, and Salt Lake City is honored to be the host city. I thank my colleagues for supporting this urgently needed legislation to make these games a reality at Snowbasin.

I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Utah Governor Mike Leavitt, a resolution from the Ogden City Council, an editorial from the Salt Lake Tribune, and a resolution from the Utah State Legislature—all expressing support for this legislation—be inserted in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF UTAH,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Salt Lake City, December 12, 1995.

Representative JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests and Lands, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR JIM: I am writing in strong support of H.R. 2402, the Snowbasin Land Exchange legislation, and its companion bill in the Senate, S. 1371. I applaud your efforts, as Chairman of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, in holding hearings and gaining co-sponsors.

Utah has been given an extraordinary opportunity in hosting the 2002 Winter Olympics. Snowbasin is the venue for some of the most visible and popular downhill events. Over 3 billion people around the world will have their eyes set on Snowbasin during the Olympics. We must be ready for them.

In order to successfully host this venue, certain facilities must be built and improvements added to accommodate all of the activities which are demanded of an Olympic site. For over seven years, those plans have been under review and scrutiny by the public and the Forest Service. Environmental impacts have been carefully reviewed. The required land exchange between Snowbasin and the Forest Service has now bogged down in

the administrative appeals process. Further delays would seriously threaten the timetable needed to be met for the 2002 games. That is why your legislation is so vital.

I am also supportive of the land exchange authorized by the legislation because it will enhance economic development for Northern Utah by making Snowbasin a true world-class tourist destination. Further, the public stands to benefit greatly by receiving access to large tracts of pristine recreational lands, such as Taylor Canyon, Lighting Ridge Wheeler Creek, and the North Fork Ogden River-Devil's Gate Valley, which are now in private ownership.

This legislation represents a win-win for the state of Utah and the people of Weber County. I urge you to continue to work for passage of this legislation and stand ready to assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT,
Governor.

RESOLUTION OF THE OGDEN CITY COUNCIL NO.
96-6

Whereas the property development of a year-round ski and recreational destination resort in the Snowbasin area would be beneficial to the people of the City of Ogden; and

Whereas the recent awarding of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games to Salt Lake City increases ski and recreational opportunities of the Snowbasin area; and

Whereas Snowbasin has been designated as the site of several 2002 Winter Olympic events, with pre-Olympic events scheduled in 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001; and

Whereas these Olympic and pre-Olympic events add to the urgency to develop the Snowbasin area; and

Whereas Snowbasin Resort and its owner Sun Valley Company have requested 1,320 acres of public land be transferred to Snowbasin Resort for the purpose of developing a year-round recreational destination resort; and

Whereas Snowbasin Resort has agreed to transfer into the public domain at least 4,100 acres of land which possesses outstanding recreational, environmental and other values, and which opens access to other Forest Service lands for public enjoyment; and

Whereas much of the land presently under Forest Service supervision in the Snow Basin area was originally transferred without monetary consideration into the public domain by Ogden City for the purpose of promoting and fostering the future development thereof, and where previous Ogden City Councils have adopted resolutions supporting this land transfer of 1,320 acres of property to Snowbasin in order to effectuate such desired development; and

Whereas the proper development of the Snowbasin area would increase tourism in the State of Utah and would be beneficial to the residents of northern Utah; and

Whereas a delay in facilitating the desired exchange could hamper the State's hosting of several Olympic and international alpine skiing events; and

Whereas the United States Congress is currently considering legislation which would complete the Snowbasin land exchange and enable the timely construction of facilities at Snowbasin needed for Olympic and pre-Olympic events. Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Ogden City Council urges the United States Forest Service, the United States Congress and President William Clinton to enact Snowbasin Land Exchange legislation for the purpose of preparing Snowbasin for Olympic and pre-Olympic events, and for developing Snowbasin as a multi-use, four season recreational resort area.

Passed and adopted this 9th day of April 1996.

RALPH W. MITCHELL,
Chair.

[From the Salt Lake Tribune, Apr. 1, 1996]

APPROVE SNOWBASIN SWAP

When the Utah wilderness legislation submerged an omnibus parks bill in the U.S. Senate last week, one of the dozens of items that sank with it was another proposal of keen interest to Utah—the Snowbasin/Forest Service land exchange. The Snowbasin proposal deserves resuscitation and passage, either as part of a revived omnibus bill sans Utah wilderness or as stand-alone legislation.

This plan would provide long-term benefits to Utah, the most conspicuous being the development of a four-season resort at Snowbasin by an operator, the Sun Valley Company, that has a proven record of good stewardship. And, as part of that development, the site of the downhill and Super-G ski races for the 2002 Winter Olympics would be completed on a faster track.

Under the legislation, Snowbasin would acquire 1,320 acres from the U.S. Forest Service in exchange for some 4,100 acres, spread across four different parcels in the same general area, that are currently owned by Sun Valley. Assuming a fair appraisal process—and the legislation calls for an exchange of equal value—this proposal amounts to an even land swap, not the land grab that opponents claim it is.

Granted, this legislation does carry some baggage. For instance, its supporters have couched this bill as a necessity in order for the Olympic ski races to be held at Snowbasin, but that's not quite right. Sun Valley may need the 1,320 acres for condos and residential units, but it doesn't need nearly that many for an Olympic ski venue.

In addition, granting an exemption from environmental laws—as this bill does for Phase I, or the mountain development aspect, of the plan—is not a step that should be taken cavalierly, particularly in the name of an Olympic movement that holds the environment as a top priority. Adherence to local and state laws will mitigate this concern, but it won't completely erase it.

And it hasn't helped the bill's cause that its chief proponent, Utah Rep. Jim Hansen, has made some ill-chosen comments recently, to the effect that the downhill could be run at Snowbird if the Snowbasin bill fails. This needlessly resurrected a dead-and-buried concern that the Cottonwood canyons might be used for the Olympics; it only aroused the opposition to his own bill.

Still, Rep. Hansen's rhetoric aside, the voice that counts most on this proposal should be that of the U.S. Forest Service, the current steward of the 1,320 acres in question. And the Forest Service, which had already approved an exchange of 695 of those acres in 1990, has signed off on this one after finding boundary problems with the parcel it had earmarked five years ago.

While legitimate complaints can be raised over the manner in which the Snowbasin proposal has been maneuvered around normal USFS channels and over the use of the Olympics as a wedge to gain congressional support, there still is nothing fundamentally objectionable about the land exchange itself. As long as the USFS can be assured that it will obtain equal value for those 1,320 acres, this is a development plan that Utahns—and Congress—can and should support.

STATE OF UTAH CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

4

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein

Whereas the proper development of a year-round ski and recreational resort in the

Snowbasin area would be beneficial to the people of the state of Utah;

Whereas the recent awarding of the 2002 Olympics to Salt Lake City increases the ski and recreational opportunities of the Snowbasin area;

Whereas Snowbasin has been designated as the site of several 2002 Winter Olympic event, with pre-olympic events scheduled for 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001;

Whereas these olympic and pre-olympic events add to the urgency to develop the Snowbasin area;

Whereas approximately 55 years ago, 4,300 acres of land in the Snowbasin area was transferred with little monetary consideration from private ownership to the United States Forest Service under the leadership of the Ogden Chamber of Commerce to stop overgrazing and to develop a year-round recreation area;

Whereas the Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce and many civic leaders now favor the transfer of 1,320 acres of this same land at Snowbasin to the Sun Valley Company for the purpose of developing a year-round recreational resort;

Whereas the Sun Valley Company has agreed to acquire and transfer into the public domain property of comparable value as selected by the United States Forest Service in exchange for the 1,320 acres received in the Snowbasin area;

Whereas Earl Holding, developer of world famous Sun Valley Resort, has established a proven track record as a developer of high-quality recreational resort facilities;

Whereas the proper development of the Snowbasin area would increase tourism in the state of Utah and would be extremely beneficial to the residents of northern Utah by creating numerous jobs and business opportunities;

Whereas the state of Utah has expended an excess of \$14,000,000 to construct the Trappers Loop Highway for the purpose of servicing the Snowbasin/Upper Ogden Valley area;

Whereas the delay in facilitating the exchange of the number of areas requested by the Sun Valley Company could hamper the state's hosting of several olympic and international alpine skiing events and may make the development of a year-round resort economically infeasible;

Whereas the exchange of property to the Sun Valley Company would allow the United States Forest Service to acquire additional property as an exchange that, if property selected, would open up large areas of the public domain and better suit the Forest Service's objective of preserving the public land for public use than the retention of the proposed transfer property;

Whereas the intended use of the property in question when it was transferred into Forest Service supervision was to develop a ski and recreational area; and

Whereas The United States Congress is currently considering legislation that would complete the Snowbasin land exchange and enable the timely construction of facilities at Snowbasin needed for olympic and pre-olympic events: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, the United States Forest Service, the United States Congress and President William J. Clinton to enact Snowbasin Land Exchange legislation for the purpose of preparing Snowbasin for olympic and pre-olympic events, and for developing Snowbasin as a multi-use, four season recreational resort area. Be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Sun Valley Company, the United States Forest Service, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the

members of Utah's congressional delegation, and President Clinton.

GAYLE FITZGERALD CORY, A TRIBUTE

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow Senators, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a dedicated Senate worker, a courageous woman and a wonderful person. Gayle Fitzgerald Cory worked in the Senate for 35 years, serving in many capacities. She was indispensable to the late Senator Muskie for 22 years, holding positions from receptionist to executive assistant and making the transition to the State Department with him in 1980. She was also a valued member of Senator George Mitchell's staff as his personal assistant.

A person who has filled these roles can't help but accumulate a tremendous amount of knowledge on the workings of the Senate. Gayle Fitzgerald Cory was exceptionally qualified to take on the position of postmaster in 1989.

Up until her retirement in 1995, Mrs. Cory worked hard for the U.S. Senate, she was experienced, organized and capable of handling any task or crisis that came her way. Most of all, she was a great person. The post office employees—indeed, everyone with whom she came in contact—appreciated her warmth and her sense of fairness. An extremely professional woman, she had an almost uncanny understanding of the special needs of the Senate, and she was instrumental in making it work.

My condolences go out to her husband, Don, her three daughters, Laurie, Melissa, and Carol, and all the members of her large and loving family. She was a courageous, strong person and we will all miss her.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

WHITE HOUSE TRAVEL OFFICE LEGISLATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 2937, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2937) for the reimbursement of attorney fees and costs incurred by former employees of the White House Travel Office with respect to the termination of their employment in that office on May 19, 1993.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Dole amendment No. 3952, in the nature of a substitute.

Dole amendment No. 3953 (to amendment No. 3952), to provide for an effective date for the settlement of certain claims against the United States.

Dole amendment No. 3954 (to amendment No. 3953), to provide for an effective date for

the settlement of certain claims against the United States.

Dole motion to refer the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report back forthwith.

Dole amendment No. 3955 (to the instructions to the motion to refer), to provide for an effective date for the settlement of certain claims against the United States.

Dole amendment No. 3956 (to amendment No. 3955), to provide for an effective date for the settlement of certain claims against the United States.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to speak on the bill that is before us—the bill to reimburse the people that were harmed in the unfair firing at the White House in January 1993, the bill that is for reimbursement to the people that are called the Travelgate 17.

Mr. President, I think it is very obvious that when politics stands in the way of resolving a right or wrong issue, politics always gets trampled. Right means that politics has to be put to the side. Some examples come to mind: The civil rights laws of the 1960's; the end of the defense buildup in the 1980's; the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, which I sponsored.

This bill before us falls into that category. It is to reimburse the Travelgate 7. Now, obviously, it is much less in scope than all of these other major pieces of legislation I mentioned over the last 30 years. However, let me make it very clear that it is a microcosm of the same reality. It is a right and wrong issue. And politics is standing in its way. But I predict that politics will stand in its way only temporarily. Travelgate is the story of an arrogant White House trampling all over the rights of seven dedicated public servants.

The purpose behind the abuse was so that cronies of the President could win the spoils of political gain for themselves.

One of these people was a rich Hollywood producer, friend of Bill, high-dollar campaign contributor, buddy and crony by the name of Harry Thomason. The other was a distant cousin of the President's, Catherine Cornelius.

The White House, apparently including the President and First Lady, unleashed the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Justice to harass these seven citizens. As if that were not enough, the White House also used its authority and its access to the media to conduct a public smear campaign against the seven innocent people. Following something that is too customary in this town, they used leaks, innuendoes, and falsities to continue their public harassment even after their primary target, Billy Dale, was acquitted by a jury, and it only took the jury less than 2 hours of deliberation to declare his innocence.

The net effect of all of this harassment took a real toll—these are real people—not only on the seven employees but maybe even more so on their families as well. These innocent people