

(b) REVISION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall revise the policies and procedures established under section 47107(l) of title 49, United States Code, to take into account the amendments made to that section by this title.

(2) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Section 47107(l) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—In addition to the statute of limitations specified in subsection (n)(7), with respect to project grants made under this chapter—

“(A) any request by a sponsor to any airport for additional payments for services conducted off of the airport or for reimbursement for capital contributions or operating expenses shall be filed not later than 6 years after the date on which the expense is incurred; and

“(B) any amount of airport funds that are used to make a payment or reimbursement as described in subparagraph (A) after the date specified in that subparagraph shall be considered to be an illegal diversion of airport revenues that is subject to subsection (n).”

SEC. 906. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.

Section 9502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subsection (b)(3);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subsection (b)(4) and inserting “, and”; and

(3) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:

“(5) amounts determined by the Secretary of the Treasury to be equivalent to the amounts of civil penalties collected under section 47107(n) of title 49, United States Code.”; and

(4) in subsection (d), by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

“(4) TRANSFERS FROM THE AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND ON ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN AIRPORTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may transfer from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund to the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration an amount to make a payment to an airport affected by a diversion that is the subject of an administrative action under paragraph (3) or a civil action under paragraph (4) of section 47107(n) of title 49, United States Code.”

TITLE X—EXTENSION OF AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

SEC. 1001. EXPENDITURES FROM AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

Section 9502(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to expenditures from Airport and Airway Trust Fund) is amended by—

(1) striking “1996” and inserting “1997”; and

(2) inserting “or the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996” after “Administration Authorization Act of 1994”.

Mr. LOTT. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Was that motion to reconsider laid on the table?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It was. Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senate majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Madam President. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendments to H.R. 3539, that the Senate request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees.

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

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, for the information of all of our colleagues, we are awaiting receipt of the Transportation appropriations conference report. We expect to have it here momentarily, hopefully in 10 minutes or so. We would then ask consent to take up that Transportation conference report and proceed to its conclusion.

Following that, then we would go to the Magnuson fisheries bill. I know that the Senators from Massachusetts and Alaska and the two from Washington are interested in that. It is our intent to go to Magnuson as soon as we complete action on the Transportation appropriations conference report. In view of that, while we await the receipt momentarily of the Transportation conference report, 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. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

Mr. LOTT. I do reserve objection just to make this point. How long?

Mr. BINGAMAN. Eight minutes I was planning to speak.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, at this point I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business for 15 minutes. Would that be all right?

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

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank the Chair, Madam President.

EDUCATION IN AMERICA

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I want to speak for a few minutes on the issue of education funding, which is of vital importance to most Americans and certainly is to the people in my State.

First of all, I think we need to put the issue into context. When I go around my State of New Mexico, I talk to people at townhall meetings and I ask, what percentage of the Federal budget do you believe is committed to improving education? Usually I start by saying, “How many of you think 15 percent of the Federal budget is committed to education?” Quite a few hands go up in the audience. Then I say, “How about 10 percent?” and even more hands go up. I say, “Five percent?” and not that many hands. So the consensus in my State is that perhaps we are spending about 10 percent of our Federal budget on education.

Madam President, the truth is, we are spending 1.4 percent, less than 2 percent, of our Federal budget on education. It is in this context that we need to consider the proposals which have come forward in this Congress to actually cut back on Federal support for education.

At the same time, as baby boomers’ children enter the schools, as enrollment grows in my State, as it is growing in many States around this country, we are seeing Federal support for education dropping in absolute terms.

I had a chance to visit Las Cruces, NM, with a group of experts on education who were looking at the problem of Hispanic students who are dropping out of our schools in very large numbers in my State and throughout the country. We were having lunch in a restaurant, an excellent restaurant named Roberto’s in Las Cruces. I recommend it to anybody. But we were having lunch there, and a woman recognized me and came over to introduce herself.

She said that she was a seventh grade teacher. She taught math in the seventh grade. So I suggested she sit down with this group of experts and talk to them about what needs she saw in education.

The first thing she raised was, “We would certainly appreciate anything that you can do to get us more money for supplies.” And I said, “What do you mean, ‘supplies?’” She said, “We get an allocation. I, as a seventh grade teacher, get an allocation of \$50 a year for supplies for my entire class, and that includes the cost of copying materials that I want to pass out to my students. So we wind up either with me not providing the materials or with me paying for it out of my pocket or having bake sales or depending upon charity of some kind to cover this cost.”

Madam President, it is in that context that we are talking about cutting funds for education here at the national level. It is also in the context of a defense bill which is pending or will be pending soon here in the Senate that goes \$9.4 billion over what the Pentagon requested this year.

So we are cutting back on education funds and adding over \$9 billion to what the Defense Department requested, and I think the American people believe that our priorities are out of whack. The priorities of this Congress are not the priorities of the American people. The American people would like us to spend more than 1.4 percent of the Federal budget on education.

I also want to say that this issue about whether the Federal Government should help or whether it is none of the Federal Government’s business is really an inside-the-beltway kind of an issue, as far as I can tell. When I go home and talk to teachers and parents, they are not particularly concerned about which level of government is providing the support. What they want is to see the local school district and the