

discretionary capital grants and formula capital grants. It preserves operating assistance within formula programs for all areas and it continues funding for transit planning and research. It also makes a number of technical changes in the program to ensure better flexibility and streamlining, allowing transit managers to administer the program more effectively.

Mr. President, this bill does a few more things. It includes a provision which shifts the 4.3 cents of gas taxes per gallon currently allocated to deficit reduction, into transportation trust funds. One-half cent of the 4.3 cents is allocated into a new intercity passenger rail trust fund to fund Amtrak capital expenses; the rest—the 3.8 cents—is divided along the traditional 80 percent/20 percent split of highways/mass transit, respectively. Thus, 3.04 cents will go into the highway account of the highway trust fund, and 0.76 cents will go into the mass transit account of the highway trust fund. This is the fair, equitable way to divide any new trust fund revenue that would be allocated for transportation.

However, Mr. President, until a mechanism is provided to actually permit the expenditure of that additional funding, we will not see the investment we seek. Instead, the trust fund balances will only grow. As party to the budget negotiations just completed, I know as well as any Senator how hard it will be to make the necessary investments as we move to a balanced budget by 2002. However, I think it is important to lay out this principle and do our best to work toward it.

Mr. President, unfortunately, the balanced budget agreement reached last week will make it difficult to fund mass transit at the levels provided in this bill. As ranking Democratic member of the Budget Committee, I fought hard to ensure that we will be making an adequate investment within the context of the balanced budget agreement. I must say, it will be difficult to fund transportation at the levels I support over the next few years. However, as ranking Democratic member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I will work to ensure continued, adequate funding over these years.

Mr. President, the Mass Transit Act Amendments of 1997 represent what I believe, and what transit advocates believe, is necessary to provide for transit's growing needs into the 21st century. As Congress considers funding for transportation, I look forward to discussing ways that transit, and other modes of transportation, can benefit.

Mr. President, this bill also includes a Reverse Commute Pilot Program which intends to assist individuals in both urban and rural areas receive employment and job training. This annual \$250 million discretionary program reflects the growing needs of the work force, particularly those in urban and rural areas who do not have access to suburban jobs. A 1996 report conducted

by the Eno Transportation Foundation, "Commuting in America II," found that "today, the dominant commuting flow pattern is suburban, with 50% of the Nation's commuters living in the suburbs and over 41% of all jobs located there, up from 37% in 1980." Suburban areas are now the main destination of work trips. The report also found that there was a substantial increase in reverse commuting—the central city-to-suburb commuting rose from a 9-percent share of growth over the decade from 1970 to 1980, to 12 percent from 1980 to 1990.

Mr. President, reinvesting in our cities is important. However, if jobs are in the suburbs, we should provide mechanisms for employers, local and State employment and transportation agencies to assist those potential employees to simply get to where the work is. For those of us who are concerned about the effects of the Welfare Reform Act signed into law last year, we need to do all we can to ensure that the unemployed can move from welfare to work quickly and easily. The Reverse Commute Pilot Program makes sense.

Mr. President, we all know that the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act—ISTEA—will expire on September 30. That law was far-reaching and visionary. It recognized that good transportation policy does not mean simply pouring more concrete and asphalt. Instead, it focused on moving goods and people—in a way that makes the most sense for our Nation, our States, our communities, and our economy. Its very title acknowledged a simple, yet important, aspect of transportation which had been previously overlooked—intermodalism. During this year's debate over reauthorization of ISTEA, it is imperative that we continue this tradition of intermodalism. We must continue the strong investments in transit and the flexibility provided in the first ISTEA.

Mr. President, this bill continues that tradition. I support it and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 77, 82-89, 94-97, 113, 114, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Navy and Coast Guard.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed, en bloc, are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following-named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Code, section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. John J. Batbie, Jr., 0000
Brig. Gen. Winfred N. Carroll, 0000
Brig. Gen. Dennis M. Gray, 0000
Brig. Gen. Grant R. Mulder, 0000
Brig. Gen. Virgil J. Toney, Jr., 0000

To be brigadier general

Col. William E. Albertson, 0000
Col. Paul R. Cooper, 0000
Col. Gerald P. Fitzgerald, 0000
Col. Patrick J. Gallagher, 0000
Col. Edward J. Mechenbier, 0000
Col. Jeffrey M. Musfeldt, 0000
Col. Allan R. Poulin, 0000
Col. Giuseppe P. Santaniello, 0000
Col. Robert B. Siegfried, 0000
Col. Robert C. Stumpf, 0000
Col. William E. Thomlinson, 0000

IN THE ARMY

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Claudia J. Kennedy, 0000

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Tommy R. Franks, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following-named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the U.S. Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Code, section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Kevin B. Kuklok, 0000

The following-named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the U.S. Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Code, section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Terrence P. Murray, 0000

The following-named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the U.S. Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Code, section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. James R. Battaglini, 0000
Col. James E. Cartwright, 0000
Col. Stephen A. Cheney, 0000
Col. Christopher Cortez, 0000
Col. Robert M. Flanagan, 0000
Col. John F. Goodman, 0000
Col. Gary H. Hughey, 0000
Col. Thomas S. Jones, 0000
Col. Richard L. Kelly, 0000
Col. Ralph E. Parker, Jr., 0000
Col. John F. Sattler, 0000
Col. William A. Whitlow, 0000
Col. Frances C. Wilson, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following-named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Code, section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Karen A. Harmeyer, 0000

The following named officer for appointment as Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Navy and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Commission, section 5148:

To be rear admiral

Capt. John D. Hutson, 0000

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Lee F. Gunn, 0000

IN THE COAST GUARD

Vice Admiral Roger T. Rufe, U.S. Coast Guard, to be Commander, Atlantic Area, U.S. Coast Guard, with the grade of vice admiral while so serving.

Rear Admiral James C. Card, U.S. Coast Guard, to be Commander, Pacific Area, U.S. Coast Guard, with the grade of vice admiral while so serving.

The following regular officers of the United States Coast Guard for promotion to the grade of rear admiral lower half:

Thomas J. Barrett	George N. Naccara
James D. Hull	Terry M. Cross
John F. McGowan	

The following regular officers of the U.S. Coast Guard for the appointment to the grade of rear admiral lower half:

Robert C. North	John T. Tozzi
Timothy W. Josiah	Thomas H. Collins
Fred L. Ames	Ernest R. Riutta
Richard M. Larrabee,	

III

IN THE ARMY

The following U.S. Army Reserve officers for promotion in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, United States Code, sections 14101.14315 and 12203(a):

To be major general

Brig. Gen. William F. Allen, 0000
 Brig. Gen. Craig Bambrough, 0000
 Brig. Gen. Peter A. Gannon, 0000
 Brig. Gen. Francis R. Jordan, Jr., 0000

To be brigadier general

Col. James P. Collins, 0000
 Col. William S. Crupe, 0000
 Col. Alan V. Davis, 0000
 Col. John F. Depue, 0000
 Col. Bertie S. Duett, 0000
 Col. Calvin D. Jaeger, 0000
 Col. John S. Kasper, 0000
 Col. Richard M. O'Meara, 0000
 Col. James C. Price, 0000
 Col. Richard O. Wightman, 0000

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Army to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Code, section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Gregory A. Rountree, 0000

IN THE COAST GUARD AND NAVY

Coast Guard nomination of Brenda K. Wolter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 1997.

Coast Guard nominations beginning Kelley Elizabeth Abood, and ending Andrew James Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 1997.

Navy nominations beginning Michael J. Bailey, and ending Stan A. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 1997.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 49, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 49) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 49) was agreed to.

EXTENDING CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, EXEMPTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES TO HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 49, S. 342.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 342) to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read for the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 342) was deemed read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 342

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, EXEMPTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES TO HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES.

(a) APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT.—The provisions of

the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions as such provisions may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.

(b) APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION.—The President is authorized to apply the provisions of Article I of the Agreement on State and Local Taxation of Foreign Employees of Public International Organizations, done at Washington on April 21, 1994, to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

(c) DEFINITION.—The term “Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices” refers to Hong Kong’s official economic and trade missions in the United States.

EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR THE CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 50, Senate Concurrent Resolution 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 6) expressing concern for the continued deterioration of human rights in Afghanistan and emphasizing the need for a peaceful political settlement in that country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble:

(The parts of the resolution intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the resolution intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. CON. RES. 6

【Whereas Congress recognizes that the legacy of civil conflict in Afghanistan during the last 17 years has had a devastating effect on the civilian population in that country and a particularly negative impact on the rights and security of women and girls;

【Whereas the longstanding civil conflict in Afghanistan among the warring political and military factions has created an environment where the rights of women and girls are routinely violated;

【Whereas the Afghan forces led by Burhanuddin Rabbani and Abdul Rashid Dostum are responsible for numerous abhorrent human rights abuses, including the rape, sexual abuse, torture, abduction, and persecution of women and girls;

【Whereas Congress is disturbed by the upsurge of reported human rights abuses, including extreme restrictions placed on