

tribe in a Federal court under section 11(d)(7) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(7)) to compel the State to participate in compact negotiations for class III gaming (as that term is defined in section 4(8) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703(8))).

BUMPERS AMENDMENT NO. 2134

Mr. BUMPERS proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1768, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

“SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH REGARD TO OFFSETS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—
(1) the Budget Enforcement Act contains discretionary spending caps to limit discretionary spending;

(2) within the discretionary spending caps, Congress has imposed firewalls to establish overall limits on spending for non-defense discretionary programs and overall limits on spending for defense discretionary programs;

(3) any increase in non-defense discretionary spending that would exceed the non-defense discretionary spending caps must be offset by rescissions in non-defense discretionary programs;

(4) any increase in defense discretionary spending that would exceed the defense discretionary spending caps must be offset by rescissions in defense discretionary programs;

(5) the Budget Enforcement Act exempts emergency spending from the discretionary spending caps;

(6) certain items funded in the fiscal year 1998 supplemental appropriations bill have been designated as emergencies and thus are exempt from the budget cap limitations;

(7) the House of Representatives will be considering a version of the fiscal year 1998 supplemental appropriations bill that will purportedly make rescissions to offset spending on items that have been deemed emergencies;

(8) the rescissions included in the House of Representatives fiscal year 1998 supplemental appropriations bill will purportedly come solely from non-defense discretionary programs;

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the Sense of the Senate that of the rescissions, if any, which Congress makes to offset appropriations made for emergency items in the fiscal year 1998 supplemental appropriations bill, defense spending should be rescinded to offset increases in spending for defense programs.

ROBB AMENDMENT NO. 2135

Mr. ROBB proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1768, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

“SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This section may be cited as the ‘Agricultural Credit Restoration Act’.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT.

(a) Section 343(a)(12)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(12)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term ‘debt forgiveness’ does not include—

“(i) consolidation, rescheduling, reamortization, or deferral of a loan;

“(ii) debt forgiveness in the form of a restructuring, write-down, or net recovery buy-out during the lifetime of the borrower that is due to a financial problem of the borrower relating to a natural disaster or a

medical condition of the borrower or of a member of the immediate family of the borrower (or, in the case of a borrower that is an entity, a principal owner of the borrower or a member of the immediate family of such an owner); and

“(iii) any restructuring, write-down, or net recovery buy-out provided as a part of a resolution of a discrimination complaint against the Secretary.”.

(b) Section 353(m) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001(m)) is amended by striking all that precedes paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(m) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF WRITE-DOWNS AND NET RECOVERY BUY-OUTS PER BORROWER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide a write-down or net recovery buy-out under this section on not more than 2 occasions per borrower with respect to loans made after January 6, 1988.”.

(c) Section 353 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is amended by striking subsection (o).

(d) Section 355(c)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) RESERVATION AND ALLOCATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, reserve and allocate the proportion of each State’s loan funds made available under subtitle B that is equal to that State’s target participation rate for use by the socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in that State. The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, distribute the total so derived on a county by county basis according to the number of socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in the county.

“(B) REALLOCATION OF UNUSED FUNDS.—The Secretary may pool any funds reserved and allocated under this paragraph with respect to a State that are not used as described in subparagraph (A) in a State in the first 10 months of a fiscal year with the funds similarly not so used in other States, and may reallocate such pooled funds in the discretion of the Secretary for use by socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in other States.”.

(e) Section 373(b)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2008h(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may not make or guarantee a loan under subtitle A or B to a borrower who on, 2 or more occasions, received debt forgiveness on a loan made or guaranteed under this title.”.

(f) Section 373(c) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2008h(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) NO MORE THAN 2 DEBT FORGIVENESSES PER BORROWER ON DIRECT LOANS.—The Secretary may not, on 2 or more occasions, provide debt forgiveness to a borrower on a direct loan made under this title.”.

SEC. 2. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the amendments made by this Act, without regard to—

(1) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the statement of policy of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to notices of proposed rule-making and public participation in rule-making that became effective on July 24, 1971 (36 Fed. Reg. 13804).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to

meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, in open session, to receive testimony on the situation in the Persian Gulf.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, to conduct a hearing on the re-nomination of Arthur Levitt, Jr., to be a commissioner and chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to continue markup of S. 8, the Superfund Cleanup Acceleration Act of 1997, Wednesday, March 25, 9:30 a.m., Hearing room (SD-406).

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, at 10 a.m., for a hearing on the Government Secrecy Act of 1997, S. 712.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 1998 beginning at 9:30 a.m., until business is completed, to receive testimony on the Federal election Commission’s budget authorization request for FY99.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs requests unanimous consent to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to receive the legislative presentations of AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Retired Officers Association.

The hearing will be held on March 25, 1998, at 9:30 a.m., in room 345 of the Cannon House Office Building.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 1998 at 3 p.m. and Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Airland Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, at 10 a.m., in open session, to receive testimony on Tactical Aviation Modernization.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Communications Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, at 2:30 p.m., on 271 Application Process.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION, FEDERALISM, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 1998 at 2 p.m., to hold a hearing in Room 226, Senate Dirksen Building, on: "The Tradition and Importance of Protecting the United States Flag."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 890, the Dutch John Federal Property Disposition and Assistance Act of 1997; S. 1109, a bill to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements; S. 1468, a bill to provide for the conveyance of one (1) acre of land from Santa Fe National Forest to the Village of Jemez Springs, New Mexico, as the site of a fire substation; S. 1469, a bill to provide for the expansion of the historic community cemetery of El Rito, New Mexico, through the special designation of five acres of Carson National Forest adjacent to the cemetery; S. 1510, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey

certain lands to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico; S. 1683, a bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over part of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion in the Wenatchee National Forest; S. 1719, the Gallatin Land Consolidation Act of 1998; S. 1752, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain administrative sites and use the proceeds for the acquisition of office sites and the acquisition, construction, or improvement of offices and support buildings for the Coconino National Forest, Kaibab National Forest, Prescott National Forest, and Tonto National Forest in the State of Arizona; H.R. 1439, a bill to facilitate the sale of certain lands in Tahoe National Forest in the State of California to Placer County, California; H.R. 1663, a bill to clarify the intent of the Congress in Public Law 93-632 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to provide for the maintenance of 18 concrete dams and weirs that were located in the Emigrant Wilderness at the time the wilderness area was designated as wilderness in that Public Law.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY, EXPORT AND TRADE PROMOTION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

• Mr. REED. Mr. President, the New England Governors recently passed a resolution calling on Congress to adopt legislation to reauthorize the Corporation for National Service this year.

As a strong supporter of national and community service, I am heartened by the New England Governors' enthusiasm for AmeriCorps, the National Senior Service Corps, the Learn and Serve program, and other Corporation for National Service initiatives. It is my hope that the Corporation for National Service reauthorization legislation will be considered by the Senate this year.

Mr. President, I ask that the New England Governors' resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The resolution follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 140

Whereas, the citizens of New England have benefited in a variety of ways from the important contribution made by the service programs of the Corporation for National

Service in partnership with the states of the region; and

Whereas, New England states have profited from the power and promise of citizen service and traditional volunteers through the efforts of 90,000 New Englanders who serve our states each day through AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps programs of the Corporation for National Service; and

Whereas, New England states have been assisted by the Corporation for National Service programs that use service as a strategy to improve the quality of life in the region; and

Whereas, AmeriCorps members and National Senior Service Corps volunteers have improved education achievement, enhanced our environment, made our neighborhoods safer, and addressed other human needs; and

Whereas, the students in Learn and Serve America have been afforded the opportunity to serve their communities and reflect on the meaning of that service; and

Whereas, AmeriCorps and the other programs supported by the Corporation for National Service have provided critical resources to our states; and

Whereas, the proposed reauthorization legislation, entitled the National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998 will devolve more authority and greater flexibility to states in the implementation of programs funded by the Corporation for National Service; and

Whereas, the existing distribution of AmeriCorps grant funds, two-thirds for AmeriCorps State and one-third for AmeriCorps National, is retained in the proposed legislation; and

Whereas, New England has benefited substantially from the law's existing allocation of state funds which redistribute one-half through formula and one-half through national competition; Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Governors of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, through their New England Governors' Conference, Inc., urge their respective Congressional delegations and the Congress to support the National Community Service Amendments Act of 1998, reauthorizing the Corporation for National Service, to support the bill's devolution provisions that add authority and flexibility to states and state commissions, to support the bill's directives that AmeriCorps State funds provide Governor-appointed state commissions more control over program selection, and particularly to support the bill's continuation of the existing 50/50 state funds distribution division between formula and nationally competitive AmeriCorps grant funds.

Adoption certified by the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. on February 24, 1998. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN R. KREICK AS HE RETIRES FROM SANDERS

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. John R. Kreick as he retires from Sanders after a distinguished 28-year career. I commend and admire his dedication and commitment to the defense industry, the community and the employees of Sanders.

John joined Sanders in 1969, after receiving his doctorate in theoretical physics as a research physicist. He proceeded to manage and direct the development and production of infrared countermeasure systems that are