

“(c) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend the term of a marketing assistance loan made to producers on a farm for any loan commodity until September 30, 1998.”

D'AMATO AMENDMENT NO. 2163

Mr. STEVENS (for Mr. D'AMATO) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1768, supra; as follows:

On page 38, after line 18, add the following new section:

“SEC. . The Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure not later than April 20, 1998, on the proposed use by the New York City Police Department for air and sea rescue and public safety purposes of the facility that is to be vacated by the U.S. Coast Guard at Floyd Bennett Field located in the City of New York.”

KENNEDY (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 2164

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. WELLSTONE) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 2120 proposed by Mr. NICKLES to the bill, S. 1768, supra; as follows:

On page 39, in lieu of the matter proposed to be stricken, insert the following:

HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

For an additional amount for Health Care Financing Administration, “Program Management”, \$8,000,000.

On page 50, in lieu of the matter proposed to be stricken, insert the following:

GENERAL PROVISION, CHAPTER 11

SEC. 1101. Not to exceed \$75,400,000 may be obligated in fiscal year 1998 for contacts with Utilization and Quality Control Peer Review Organization pursuant to part B of title XI of the Social Security Act.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business will hold a hearing entitled “The President's Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Request for the Small Business Administration—Part II.” The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 2, 1998, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The hearing will be broadcast live on the Internet from our homepage address: <http://www.senate.gov/sbc>

For further information, please contact Paul Cooksey at 224-5175.

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 on Thursday, March 26, 1998, at 10 a.m. in open session, to receive testimony on Department of Energy atomic energy defense activities in review of the Defense authorization

request for fiscal year 1999 and the future years Defense program.

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 Thursday, March 26, 1998, to conduct a hearing on the implications of the recent Supreme Court decision concerning credit union membership.

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, Thursday, March 26, 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 26, 1998, at 10 a.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen office building.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Subcommittee on Children and Families, be authorized to meet for a hearing on Head Start during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 26, 1998, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 2 p.m. on S. 1221—American Fisheries Act.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 2 p.m. to receive testimony on the Department of Defense Domestic Emergency Response Program and support to the interagency preparedness efforts, including the Federal response plan and the city training program, in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 1999 and the future years Defense program.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE VETERANS BURIAL RIGHTS ACT OF 1998

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce the introduction of the Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998. I want to personally thank Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI, my colleague on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the former chairman of the committee, and Senator PAUL SARBANES for joining me in introducing this legislation.

I also want to thank the veterans service organizations that worked with us to draft this very important legislation. I particularly want to thank the veterans of my state who first brought this issue to my attention and who have been true partners in this effort.

I introduced this legislation for a very simple reason: every day, veterans are being buried across this nation without full military honors—honors earned through service to us all. And that is not right.

The Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998 is a common sense piece of legislation of great importance to the veterans of our country. Our bill requires the Department of Defense to provide honor guard services upon request at the funerals of our veterans. Our bill is the right thing to do.

Our country has asked a lot of our veterans. I believe we have a responsibility to tell each and every veteran that we remember and we honor their service to our country. The Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998 gives meaning to the words “on behalf of a grateful nation,” that accompanies the presentation of the flag to the family at a funeral.

I can speak personally to the importance of this legislation. I lost my own father last year, a World War II veteran and proud member of the Disabled American Veterans. My family was lucky. We were able to arrange for an honor guard at his service. Having the honor guard there for my family made a big difference and a lasting impression. We were all—and particularly my mother—filled with pride at a very difficult moment for our family, as Dad's service was recognized one final time. It should be this way for every family who lays a veteran to rest.

With a downsized military, installations are no longer able to provide trained personnel to perform military honors for every veteran. Veterans service organizations have stepped in and tried to provide the color guard services for deceased fellow veterans. And by most accounts, they do a pretty good job. But VSO's cannot meet the need for color guard services. By their own admission they often lack the crispness and the precision of trained military personnel.