

sanctioned by Congress, they had little more than symbolic value.

In 1997 and 1998, the Puerto Rican Legislature passed resolutions asking Congress to provide Puerto Ricans with a real opportunity to determine their political future. But our loudest action on this request has been inaction.

It is high time that we move forward. The 105th Congress—and others before it—has held numerous hearings. The House of Representatives passed its version of Puerto Rico status legislation more than four months ago. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has thoroughly examined the many issues surrounding Puerto Rico's self-determination. We are fully educated. The only work that remains to be done are a committee mark-up and vote, Senate floor action, and a House-Senate Conference Committee.

Congressman CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Puerto Rico's non-voting member of Congress, told the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that

The unresolved dilemma of Puerto Rico's status is the single most important long term issue of concern to all Puerto Ricans. It permeates every aspect of our political and economic life and holds our future hostage.

Mr. President, the United States does not hold innocent hostages. It frees them, just as it did 100 years ago when General Miles and his troops waded ashore in Puerto Rico to rescue the residents of that beautiful island from tyranny.

In 1998, as the United States and Puerto Rico celebrate 100 years together, the U.S. Senate can decide to act as our colleagues in the House of Representatives have already done. I urge my colleagues not to make that decision by indecision. The 3.8 million United States citizens in Puerto Rico are counting on us to give new life to their long-frustrated dream of political self-determination. We must not let them down. One hundred years is far too long to wait.

#### REPORT OF A PROPOSED RESCISSION OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 148

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one proposed rescission of budgetary resources, totaling \$5.2 million.

The proposed rescission affects programs of the Department of the Interior.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 24, 1998.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4193. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 310. Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for memorial service for Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4059) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, and agrees to the concurring votes of the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. PACKARD, Mr. PORTER, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. PARKER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. OBEY, as the managers of the conference on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House of Representative, having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 1122) to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, the said bill passed, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4193. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-515. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### LEGISLATIVE RESOLVE NO. 72

Whereas federal courts have ordered a state or political subdivision of a state to levy or increase taxes; and

Whereas such an order violates fundamental principles of separation of powers under which the legislative branch is charged with the enactment of laws; and

Whereas such an order, coming from a federal court, severely undermines the independence of each of the states; be it

*Resolved by the Alaska State Legislature,* That the Congress of the United States is requested to prepare and present to the legislatures of all the states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would prohibit a federal court from ordering a state or political subdivision of a state to increase or impose taxes in substantially the following language:

"Neither the Supreme Court nor any inferior court of the United States shall have the power to instruct or order a state or political subdivision thereof, or an official of such state or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes;" and be it further

*Resolved,* That this resolution constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V, Constitution of the United States, and that the legislatures of all the states are invited to join with Alaska to secure ratification of the proposed amendment.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the governors and presiding officers of the houses of the legislatures of each of Alaska's sister states.

POM-516. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### LEGISLATIVE RESOLVE NO. 65.

Whereas the University of Alaska is the oldest postsecondary school in the state and plays a vital role in educating Alaskans as well as students from around the world; and

Whereas the University of Alaska began as Alaska Agricultural and Mining College, a land grant college; and

Whereas the land grant system is one of the oldest and most respected forms of financing education in the United States; and

Whereas the land grant system provides grants of land to colleges and universities for facility location and, more importantly, provides a method for sustaining revenues to those colleges and universities; and

Whereas the University of Alaska received the smallest amount of land of any state that has a land grant college except Delaware; to date, the university has received only about 111,000 acres, less than one-third the acreage the university was originally promised; and

Whereas S. 660, sponsored by Senator Frank Murkowski, would grant to the University of Alaska 250,000 acres of federal land if the university agrees to relinquish to the federal government its extremely valuable inholdings in Denali National Park and Preserve and in other national parks, preserves, and refuges; and

Whereas S. 660 would grant to the University of Alaska an additional 250,000 acres of federal land if the states agrees to grant to the university 250,000 acres of state land; and

Whereas S. 660 will provide a stable revenue stream to the University of Alaska while protecting the state's unique parks, preserves, and refuges; and

Whereas reasonable amendments can be made to S. 600 relating to the transfer of federal lands in the Tongass National Forest