

telling them that they will starve under the Republican majority. Finally March madness could refer to the fact that yet another member of President Clinton's Cabinet has become involved in yet another ethics investigation.

Mr. Speaker, what madness is next?

CUTTING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, activities occurring in the 104th Congress this week make very clear the warped priorities and bad economics of the Republican's contract on America. The warped priorities are evident in the programs subject to deep and painful spending cuts: school lunches, day-care nutrition, drug-free schools, and several other programs representing an important investment in our next generation. In short, help for our kids that our kids need.

And for what are these cuts being made? Being made to finance a tax package to be voted on in the Committee on Ways and Means, a package that represents the more you make, the more you are going to get. In fact, this tax package makes it clear the breaks are going to be even more lucrative in the future. Consider it the gift that keeps on giving for America's most privileged and powerful.

So there it is. Cuts in programs for our kids to fund tax breaks for the most privileged. The contract for America is bad news for this country because it is bad news for our kids.

FCC SPECTRUM AUCTIONS

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to today applaud yesterday's spectrum auction conducted by the Federal Communications Commission. The broadband auction for personal communications services resulted in bids of more than \$7 billion, that is 7 with a "B", billion dollars, exceeding all previous estimates.

Pioneer preference licenses to companies using new innovative technologies resulted in bids of over \$700 million. As many as 300,000 new jobs will be created as a result of these auctions.

They have been more than successful than I ever dreamed when I first introduced this concept a few years ago in that auction revenues now will approach an impressive \$9 billion. This is \$9 billion that will go to the Treasury. Rarely do we see an idea whose time has not only come but has produced the kind of revenue to the taxpayers that this particular provision has.

Our full Committee on Commerce tomorrow will consider legislation to extend the FCC's auction authority by the year 2000. We plan to continue in that vein.

REPUBLICANS ARE NOT CUTTING SCHOOL LUNCHES

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I see where several of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are up to their same old class warfare tricks. The gentleman from Michigan, the distinguished minority whip, said that Republicans are giving working Americans the cold shoulder. Well, the Democrats' class warfare will not wash with the American people.

Republicans are not out to cut school lunches. Actually our program will increase school lunches to the children of our country. We do not intend to cut the School Lunch Program. Our proposal will actually increase school lunches.

We offer incentives. Our proposals offer better opportunities. The Democrats offer the same old class warfare rhetoric with more taxing and more spending.

I urge the American people to look carefully at what we the Republicans are attempting to do, which is provide more school lunches for our school children.

□ 1430

TAKE FROM OUR FAMILIES AND GIVE TO THE BUREAUCRATS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a new version of Robin Hood displayed by the Democrats this week. They want to "take as much as possible from hard working families and give to the bureaucrats in Washington, DC."

Minority Leader GEPHARDT even called the Republican proposal to give a \$500 per child tax credit to families "an appalling display of Republican indifference to working people." This tax credit will benefit approximately 50 million families—90 percent of whom earn less than \$75,000 a year. Yet the minority party claims this is bad for working families.

Whose family would be worse off today with an additional \$1,000 to help make ends meet? Whose family would be worse off with \$1,000 to start a college education fund for their children? Whose family would be worse off with more of their own hard-earned money?

Mr. Speaker, it is time we start cutting bureaucracy here in Washington, DC, and returning control and money to American families. Despite what the minority party claims, the \$500 per child tax credit is good for all working families and I urge my colleagues to support it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 402) to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 402

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

SECTION 1. RATIFICATION OF CERTAIN CASWELL AND MONTANA CREEK NATIVE ASSOCIATIONS CONVEYANCES.

The conveyance of approximately 11,520 acres to Montana Creek Native Association, Inc., and the conveyance of approximately 11,520 acres to Caswell Native Association, Inc., by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. in fulfillment of the agreement of February 3, 1976, and subsequent letter agreement of March 26, 1982, among the three parties are hereby adopted and ratified as a matter of Federal law. These conveyances shall be deemed to be conveyances pursuant to section 14(h)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(2)). The group corporations for Montana Creek and Caswell are hereby declared to have received their full entitlement and shall not be entitled to the receipt of any additional lands under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The ratification of these conveyances shall not have any other effect upon section 14(h) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)) or upon the duties and obligations of the United States to any Alaska Native Corporation. This ratification shall not be the basis for any claim to land or money by Caswell or Montana Creek group corporations or any other Alaska Native Corporation against the State of Alaska, the United States, or Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated.

SEC. 2. MINING CLAIMS AFTER LANDS CONVEYED TO ALASKA REGIONAL CORPORATION.

Section 22(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1621(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) This section shall apply to lands conveyed by interim conveyance or patent to a regional corporation pursuant to this Act which are made subject to a mining claim or claims located under the general mining laws, including lands conveyed prior to enactment of this paragraph. Effective upon the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management and in a manner consistent with section 14(g) of this Act, shall transfer to the regional corporation administration of all mining claims determined to be entirely within lands conveyed to that corporation. Any person holding such mining claim or claims shall meet such requirements of the general mining laws and section

314 of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1744), except that any filings which would have been made with the Bureau of Land Management if the lands were within Federal ownership shall be timely made to the appropriate regional corporation. The validity of any such mining claim or claims may be contested by the regional corporation, in the place of the United States. All contest proceedings and appeals by the mining claimants of adverse decisions made by the regional corporation shall be brought in Federal District Court for the District of Alaska. Neither the United States nor any Federal agency or official shall be named or joined as a party in such proceedings or appeals. All revenues from such mining claims received after passage of this paragraph shall be remitted to the regional corporation subject to distribution pursuant to section 7(i) of this Act, except that in the event that the mining claim or claims are not totally within the lands conveyed to the regional corporation, the regional corporation shall be entitled only to that proportion of revenues, other than administrative fees, reasonably allocated to the portion of the mining claim or claims so conveyed."

SEC. 3. SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS ARISING FROM HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE CONTAMINATION OF TRANSFERRED LANDS.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"CLAIMS ARISING FROM CONTAMINATION OF TRANSFERRED LANDS

"SEC. 40. (a) As used in this section:

"(1) The term 'contaminant' means hazardous substances harmful to public health or the environment, including asbestos.

"(2) The term 'lands' means real property transferred to an Alaska Native Corporation pursuant to this Act.

"(b) Within 18 months of enactment of this section, and after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, State of Alaska, and appropriate Alaska Native corporations and organizations, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a report addressing issues presented by the presence of hazardous substances on lands conveyed or prioritized for conveyance to such corporations pursuant to this Act. Such report shall consist of—

"(1) existing information concerning the nature and types of contaminants present on such lands prior to conveyance to Alaska Native corporations;

"(2) existing information identifying the existence and availability of potentially responsible parties for the removal or amelioration of the effects of such contaminants;

"(3) identification of existing remedies; and

"(4) recommendations for any additional legislation that the Secretary concludes is necessary to remedy the problem of contaminants on such lands."

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING REQUIRED RECONVEYANCES.

Section 14(c) of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of providing technical assistance to Village Corporations established pursuant to this Act in order that they may fulfill the reconveyance requirements of section 14(c) of this Act. The Secretary may make funds available as grants to ANCSA or nonprofit corporations that maintain in-house land planning and management capabilities."

SEC. 5. NATIVE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 1431(o) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (94 Stat. 2542) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) Following the exercise by Arctic Slope Regional Corporation of its option under paragraph (1) to acquire the subsurface estate beneath lands within the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska selected by Kuukpik Corporation, where such subsurface estate entirely surrounds lands subject to a Native allotment application approved under section 905 of this Act, and the oil and gas in such lands have been reserved to the United States, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, at its further option and subject to the concurrence of the Kuukpik Corporation, shall be entitled to receive a conveyance of the reserved oil and gas, including all rights and privileges therein reserved to the United States, in such lands. Upon the receipt of a conveyance of such oil and gas interests, the entitlement of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation to in-lieu subsurface lands under section 12(a)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1611(a)(1)) shall be reduced by the amount of acreage determined by the Secretary to be conveyed to Arctic Slope Regional Corporation pursuant to this paragraph."

SEC. 6. REPORT CONCERNING OPEN SEASON FOR CERTAIN NATIVE ALASKAN VETERANS FOR ALLOTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No later than six months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the State of Alaska and appropriate Native corporations and organizations, shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a report which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) The number of Vietnam era veterans, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who were eligible for but did not apply for an allotment of not to exceed 160 acres under the Act of May 17, 1906 (Chapter 2469; 34 Stat. 197), as such Act was in effect before December 18, 1971;

(2) an assessment of the potential impacts of additional allotments on conservation system units as such term is defined in section 102(4) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (94 Stat. 2375); and

(3) recommendations for any additional legislation that the Secretary concludes is necessary.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall release to the Secretary of the Interior information relevant to the report required under subsection (a).

SEC. 7. TRANSFER OF WRANGELL INSTITUTE.

(a) PROPERTY TRANSFER.—Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated, is authorized to transfer to the United States and the General Services Administration shall accept an approximately 10-acre site of the Wrangell Institute in Wrangell, Alaska, and the structures contained thereon.

(b) RESTORATION OF PROPERTY CREDITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In exchange for the land and structures transferred under subsection (a), property bidding credits in the total amount of \$382,305, shall be restored to the Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated, property account in the Treasury established under section 12(b) of the Act of January 2, 1976 (Public Law 94-204; 43 U.S.C. 1611 note), referred to in such section as the "Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated, property account". Such property bidding credits shall be used in the same fiscal year as received by Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated.

(2) HOLD HARMLESS.—The United States shall defend and hold harmless Cook Inlet

Region, Incorporated, and its subsidiaries in any and all claims arising from Federal or Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated, ownership of the land and structures prior to their return to the United States.

SEC. 8. SHISHMAREF AIRPORT AMENDMENT.

The Shishmaref Airport, conveyed to the State of Alaska on January 5, 1967, in Patent No. 1240529, is subject to reversion to the United States, pursuant to the terms of that patent for nonuse as an airport. The Secretary is authorized to reacquire the interests originally conveyed pursuant to Patent No. 1240529, and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall immediately thereafter transfer all right, title, and interest of the United States in the subject lands to the Shishmaref Native Corporation. Nothing in this section shall relieve the State, the United States, or any other potentially responsible party of liability, if any, under existing law for the clean up of hazardous or solid wastes on the property, nor shall the United States or Shishmaref Native Corporation become liable for the cleanup of the property solely by virtue of acquiring title from the State or from the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG].

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 402. This bill is the result of a 2-year effort of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the State of Alaska, the administration, and my ranking minority member, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER]. I thank them for their dedication and hard work.

The bill is noncontroversial. Most of the provisions have already passed the House in previous Congresses but were not acted on by the Senate. We hope that the new congressional leadership will improve the track record on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 402 makes several technical changes to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 [ANCSA] and the Alaska National Interests Land Conservation Act to address some of the unresolved land issues which have arisen since the passage of these acts.

These include specific land conveyances to Native corporations, the clarification of mining authority and administration of mining claims on lands conveyed to Native corporations, a report on hazardous substances on lands conveyed to Native corporations, an authorization of technical assistance to Native villages to help with land reconveyances required under ANCSA, and a report on Vietnam-era veterans who were eligible but did not receive land under the Native Allotment Act of May 17, 1906.

Mr. Speaker, all these provisions are long awaited, but I feel very strongly about section 6 regarding unclaimed land allotments for Native Alaskans serving during the Vietnam war.

Many of these Natives were in service overseas and were unable to file for their allotments. I do not believe that they should be penalized for fulfilling their patriotic duty. I hope that with this report, Congress will be able to enact additional legislation on behalf of these Alaska Native veterans.

The version of the bill before the House has a minor change from the version reported from the Resources Committee on February 8. In section 5, we have restored the right of a Native corporation to concur in the selection of oil and gas rights allowed under the act. Our minority has agreed to this small improvement to the bill.

I also want to thank Chairman KASICH and his staff for their thorough review of this bill in a short period of time and their cooperation in scheduling all the bills on today's program.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. STUDDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I am a bit puzzled by about how long it took the gentleman from Alaska to describe this bill. What is different about this picture?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, if I may, there is nothing different about this bill at all. We are just bringing it up under suspension today.

Mr. STUDDS. Let me just say that I concur with this legislation which is substantially the same as the legislation we passed in the previous Congress, and it is without controversy. It is even a good thing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation. The gentleman from Alaska has long been a good friend of his Alaska Native constituents and this bill continues that tradition.

This legislation was the subject of a hearing, reported by the committee, and passed by the House in the previous Congress. The eight diverse sections in the bill were largely developed in the course of negotiations between the Alaska Federation of Natives, the State of Alaska, and the Department of the Interior. This process was successful in fostering consensus and minimizing controversy.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, that this bill also reflects a tradition of bipartisan concern and cooperation within the committee when dealing with issues affecting Alaska Natives.

I urge support for the legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 402, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PURCHASE OF COMMON STOCK OF COOK INLET REGIONAL CORPORATION

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 421) to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for the purchase of common stock of Cook Inlet Region, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 421

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

SECTION 1. PURCHASE OF SETTLEMENT COMMON STOCK OF COOK INLET REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(h) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4)(A) As used in this paragraph, the term ‘Cook Inlet Regional Corporation’ means Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated.

“(B) The Cook Inlet Regional Corporation may, by an amendment to its articles of incorporation made in accordance with the voting standards under section 36(d)(1), purchase Settlement Common Stock of the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation and all rights associated with the stock from the shareholders of Cook Inlet Regional Corporation in accordance with any provisions included in the amendment that relate to the terms, procedures, number of offers to purchase, and timing of offers to purchase.

“(C) Subject to subparagraph (D), and notwithstanding paragraph (1)(B), the shareholders of Cook Inlet Regional Corporation may, in accordance with an amendment made pursuant to subparagraph (B), sell the Settlement Common Stock of the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation to itself.

“(D) No sale or purchase may be made pursuant to this paragraph without the prior approval of the board of directors of Cook Inlet Regional Corporation. Except as provided in subparagraph (E), each sale and purchase made under this paragraph shall be made pursuant to an offer made on the same terms to all holders of Settlement Common Stock of the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation.

“(E) To recognize the different rights that accrue to any class or series of shares of Settlement Common Stock owned by stockholders who are not residents of a Native village (referred to in this paragraph as ‘non-village shares’), an amendment made pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall authorize the board of directors (at the option of the board) to offer to purchase—

“(i) the non-village shares, including the right to share in distributions made to shareholders pursuant to subsections (j) and (m) (referred to in this paragraph as ‘non-resident distribution rights’), at a price that includes a premium, in addition to the amount that is offered for the purchase of other village shares of Settlement Common Stock of the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation, that reflects the value of the non-resident distribution rights; or

“(ii) non-village shares without the non-resident distribution rights associated with the shares.

“(F) Any shareholder who accepts an offer made by the board of directors pursuant to subparagraph (E)(ii) shall receive, with respect to each non-village share sold by the shareholder to the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation—

“(i) the consideration for a share of Settlement Common Stock offered to shareholders of village shares; and

“(ii) a security for only the nonresident rights that attach to such share that does not have attached voting rights (referred to in this paragraph as a ‘non-voting security’).

“(G) An amendment made pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall authorize the issuance of a non-voting security that—

“(i) shall, for purposes of subsections (j) and (m), be treated as a non-village share with respect to—

“(I) computing distributions under such subsections; and

“(II) entitling the holder of the share to the proportional share of the distributions made under such subsections;

“(ii) may be sold to Cook Inlet Region, Inc.; and

“(iii) shall otherwise be subject to the restrictions under paragraph (1)(B).

“(H) Any shares of Settlement Common Stock purchased pursuant to this paragraph shall be canceled on the conditions that—

“(i) non-village shares with the non-resident rights that attach to such shares that are purchased pursuant to this paragraph shall be considered to be—

“(I) outstanding shares; and

“(II) for the purposes of subsection (m), shares of stock registered on the books of the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation in the names of nonresidents of villages;

“(ii) any amount of funds that would be distributable with respect to non-village shares or non-voting securities pursuant to subsection (j) or (m) shall be distributed by Cook Inlet Regional Corporation to itself; and

“(iii) village shares that are purchased pursuant to this paragraph shall be considered to be—

“(I) outstanding shares, and

“(II) for the purposes of subsection (k) shares of stock registered on the books of the Cook Inlet Regional Corporation in the names of the residents of villages.

“(I) Any offer to purchase Settlement Common Stock made pursuant to this paragraph shall exclude from the offer—

“(i) any share of Settlement Common Stock held, at the time the offer is made, by an officer (including a member of the board of directors) of Cook Inlet Regional Corporation or a member of the immediate family of the officer; and

“(ii) any share of Settlement Common Stock held by any custodian, guardian, trustee, or attorney representing a shareholder of Cook Inlet Regional Corporation in fact or law, or any other similar person, entity, or representative.

“(j)(i) The board of directors of Cook Inlet Regional Corporation, in determining the terms of an offer to purchase made under this paragraph, including the amount of any premium paid with respect to a non-village share, may rely upon the good faith opinion of a recognized firm of investment bankers or valuation experts.

“(ii) Neither Cook Inlet Regional Corporation nor a member of the board of directors or officers of Cook Inlet Regional Corporation shall be liable for damages resulting from terms made in an offer made in connection with any purchase of Settlement Common Stock if the offer was made—

“(I) in good faith;

“(II) in reliance on a determination made pursuant to clause (i); and

“(III) otherwise in accordance with this paragraph.

“(K) The consideration given for the purchase of Settlement Common Stock made pursuant to an offer to purchase that provides for such consideration may be in the form of cash, securities, or a combination of