

such unobligated funds in that account as may be necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties under this part during October, November, and December 1995. Funds transferred under the preceding sentence shall remain available until December 31, 1995.

“(B) The account referred to in subparagraph (A) is the Department of Defense Base Closure Account established under section 207(a) of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (Public Law 100-526; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note).”

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am pleased to sponsor an amendment that would authorize the Department of Defense to fund the Base Closure and Realignment Commission for the remainder of calendar year 1995.

The law establishing the Base Closure Commission authorized the Department of Defense to fund the operations of the Commission using fiscal year 1991 authorization. Unfortunately, the Department's 1990 estimate of the Commission's operating expenses fell short of actual requirement. This shortfall is due to the extensive travel required of the Commission to visit each base on the Secretary of Defense's closure list and attend the numerous hearings required to make the process as fair and open as possible. Additionally, the Commission had to purchase a new computer system to support its operation.

Mr. President, in my judgment the Base Closure Commission has provided a valuable service to the Nation. The funding, which is estimated to be less than \$300,000 is necessary for the Commission to archive at files and prepare the appropriate closeout reports. I am advised that the Department of Defense is prepared to provide the necessary funds from existing authority, but needs this legislation authority.

Mr. President, this is an appropriate use of the Defense Department funds and I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this relates to the Base Closure Commission for the remainder of the calendar year for 1995. It is my understanding it has been accepted on the other side.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, we have cleared this amendment. I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2109) was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. NUNN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, as far as I know, this concludes the matters relating to the pending measure. On behalf of the distinguished majority leader, I am prepared to address some wrapup items for the evening.

Mr. NUNN. I thank my friend from Virginia and look forward to further debate on the bill tomorrow morning.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO U.S.S. "SOUTH DAKOTA" VETERANS

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, with a sense of pride and honor I rise today to pay special tribute to Floyd Gulbrandson, Al Rickel, Charles Skorpik, Willie Wieland, and the rest of the crew of the U.S.S. *South Dakota*, one of the most decorated battleships during World War II. Commissioned on March 20, 1942, the U.S.S. *South Dakota* quickly became the flagship of Admiral Nimitz's 3rd Fleet, and originally was intended to host the Japanese surrender which ultimately was held on the U.S.S. *Missouri*.

Stretching more than 600 feet and displacing more than 43,000 tons of water, the U.S.S. *South Dakota* defended our Nation in World War II by traveling across 276,000 miles of ocean with massive firepower which included nine 16-inch guns, sixteen 5-inch guns, sixty-eight 40-millimeter guns, and seventy-six 20-millimeter guns. During her years of active service, more than 7,000 brave individuals would serve aboard the *South Dakota*. Collectively, the crew of the U.S.S. *South Dakota* endured her many battles and earned several distinguished awards, including the Navy Unit Commendation, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 13 battle stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

Mr. President, I want to highlight some of many moments of naval combat from the many successful battles experienced by the crew of the U.S.S. *South Dakota*. On October 26, 1942, the U.S.S. *South Dakota* entered its first battle with a freshman crew on deck and was attacked by 180 enemy bombers in what is now known as the Battle of Santa Cruz Island. Defending both the *Enterprise* and *Hornet* aircraft carriers, the U.S.S. *South Dakota* offered a bold retaliation of gunfire that shot down an unprecedented 30 enemy aircraft and helped render two enemy aircraft carriers inoperative. For their valiant action during the repeated attacks and heavy fire, Captain Gatch was decorated with the Navy Cross, the crew was presented with the Navy Unit Commendation and the U.S.S. *South Dakota* received its first of 13 battle stars. That was an extraordinary beginning to an extraordinary vessel that symbolized gallantry, honor, and service at sea.

Mr. President, on October 25, 1962, the first and only U.S.S. *South Dakota*, one of the greatest battleships ever to sail during World War II, was sold for

scrap metal. Although gone, the U.S.S. *South Dakota* continues in the memory of those who served on her decks. I am proud of the heritage of the U.S.S. *South Dakota*. She was instrumental during World War II in fighting successfully for the freedoms we now enjoy. I commend the brave crew of the U.S.S. *South Dakota* for their courage and commitment to duty. In honor of the crew, their dedicated service, and the memory of this great battleship, I have asked the Secretary of the Navy to name one of the new attack submarines the U.S.S. *South Dakota*. That would be a fitting tribute—to have one of the next generation's great submarines carry the same name of one of America's truly great battleships.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CUTS AND THE SO-CALLED COALITION TO SAVE MEDICARE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today, the Republican disinformation campaign on Medicare went into high gear. The leaders of the Republican Party have entered into an unholy alliance with the insurance industry to raid Medicare by raising costs for senior citizens and turning Medicare over to private insurance companies.

The overall Republican goal is to cut Medicare by \$270 billion in order to pay for their \$245 billion dollar tax cut for the wealthy. To achieve those harsh cuts in Medicare, senior citizens will be forced to pay more—far more—for the Medicare benefits they now receive. To line up the insurance industry on their side, the Republicans are offering the industry the chance to get its hands on Medicare and earn vast additional profits at the expense of senior citizens.

The phony Republican coalition to save Medicare is now clear for all to see. It includes representatives of wealthy individuals and businesses who care about tax cuts, not senior citizens. It includes private insurance companies who want the elderly to be forced to give up Medicare and buy their policies.

Republicans pretend they want to save Medicare. What they really want to save is their tax cut for the wealthy.

Republicans pretend they want to restore the solvency of Medicare and save the trust fund. But I say, you cannot trust Republicans who talk about the trust fund. The Republican cuts in Medicare are deeper—far deeper—than any cuts needed to keep Medicare solvent.

The fundamental issue is not keeping Medicare solvent—it is keeping Republicans away from Medicare.

Democrats know how to keep Medicare solvent, and we will do it. We will do it without raising costs for senior citizens, without forcing senior citizens into HMO's without forcing them to give up their own doctors and without turning Medicare over to the tender loving hands of the private insurance industry.

The real question is trust. Do the American people trust Democrats to save Medicare—or do they trust Republicans? I believe the answer is clear. Democrats have earned the trust of America on Medicare, and we intend to honor that trust.

**WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE?
CONSIDER THE ARITHMETIC**

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before discussing today's bad news about the Federal debt, how about "another go", as the British put it, with our pop quiz. Remember? One question, one answer.

The question: How many millions of dollars does it take to make a trillion dollars? (While you are thinking about it, bear in mind that it was the U.S. Congress that ran up the Federal debt that now exceeds \$4.9 trillion.)

To be exact, as of the close of business yesterday, August 2, the total federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$4,956,664,786,501.42, of which, on a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$18,815.58.

Mr. President, back to our pop quiz, how many million in a trillion: There are a million million in a trillion.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ENTITLED "EMPOWERMENT: A NEW COVENANT WITH AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 72

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith my Administration's National Urban Policy Report, "Empowerment: A New Covenant With America's Communities," as required by 42 U.S.C. 4503(a). The Report provides a framework for empowering America's disadvantaged citizens and poor communities to build a brighter future for themselves, for their families and neighbors, and for America. The Report is organized around four principles:

First, it links families to work. It brings tax, education and training, housing, welfare, public safety, transportation, and capital access policies together to help families make the transition to self-sufficiency and independence. This linkage is critical to the transformation of our communities.

Second, it leverages private investment in our urban communities. It works with the market and the private sector to build upon the natural assets and competitive advantages of urban communities.

Third, it is locally driven. The days of made in Washington solutions, dictated by a distant Government, are gone. Instead, solutions must be locally crafted, and implemented by entrepreneurial public entities, private sectors, and a growing network of community-based firms and organizations.

Fourth, it relies on traditional values—hard work, family, responsibility. The problems of so many inner-city neighborhoods—family break-up, teen pregnancy, abandonment, crime, drug use—will be solved only if individuals, families, and communities determine to help themselves.

These principles reflect an emerging consensus in the decades-long debate over urban policy. These principles are neither Democratic nor Republican: they are American. They will enable local communities, individuals and families, businesses, churches, community-based organizations, and civic groups to join together to seize the opportunities and to solve the problems in their own lives. They will put the private sector back to work for all families in all communities. I therefore invite the Congress to work with us on a bipartisan basis to implement an empowerment agenda for America's communities and families.

In a sense, poor communities represent an untapped economic opportunity for our whole country. While we work together to open foreign markets abroad to American-made goods and services, we also need to work together to open the economic frontiers of poor communities here at home. By enabling people and communities in genuine need to take greater responsibility for working harder and smarter together, we can unleash the greatest underused source of growth and renewal in each of the local regions that make up our national economy and civic life. This will be good for cities and suburbs, towns and villages, and rural and urban America. This will be good for families. This will be good for the country.

We have undertaken initiatives that seek to achieve these goals. Some seek to empower local communities to help themselves, including Empowerment Zones, Community Development banks, the Community Opportunity Fund, community policing, and enabling local schools and communities to best meet world-class standards. And some seek to empower individuals and

families to help themselves, including our expansion of the earned-income tax cut for low- and moderate-income working families, and our proposals for injecting choice and competition into public and assisted housing and for a new G.I. Bill for America's Workers.

I am determined to end Federal budget deficits, and my balanced budget proposal shows that we can balance the budget without abandoning the investments that are vital to the security and prosperity of the country, now and in the future. I am confident that, working together, we can build common ground on an empowerment agenda while putting our fiscal house in order. I will do everything in my power to make sure this happens.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 3, 1995.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At noon, 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. 1225. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt employees who perform certain court reporting duties from the compensatory time requirements applicable to certain public agencies, and for other purposes.

At 1:55 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. 2161. An act to extend authorities under the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1994 until October 1, 1995, 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-270. A resolution adopted by the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska relative to the Tongass National Forest; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-271. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

"SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 6

"Whereas, the exploration and development of mineral resources in the United States has provided a significant benefit to the residents of the United States; and

"Whereas, the mining industry of the United States provides steady, high-paying jobs for thousands of Americans, and through its operations pays millions of dollars in taxes; and

"Whereas, the mining industry in the State of Nevada makes significant contributions to the strength of the economy of this state; and

"Whereas, the basic tenets of the General Mining Law of 1872, 30 U.S.C. §§22 et seq., continue to be of critical importance in encouraging the development of hard rock minerals; and