

during the winter months of November through February.

I urge my colleagues to carefully reconsider this issue as they prepare to go to conference with the House, and urge them to defer to the House on this issue.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I request permission to engage the senior Senator from Maine and the chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee in a brief colloquy. As the chairman knows, new fungicide-resistant strains of the late blight potato fungus are causing serious damage to potato crops in a number of potato-growing States. Maine has been hit particularly hard by late blight over the past several years. To address this problem, the Congress provided \$1.4 million for late blight control and research in Maine through extension in 1994, and it provided \$800,000 for the Maine program in the current fiscal year through the Smith-Lever pest management funds. USDA officials have informed our offices that another \$800,000 has been included in the President's budget for this purpose in fiscal year 1996 under pest management.

Mr. COHEN. I fully concur with Senator SNOWE that this funding is critical to helping potato growers in Maine and other States protect their crops from the devastation of late blight. We note that the committee has provided \$10.9 million for pest management in its fiscal year 1996 bill, which is the same as the amount appropriated in the current fiscal year. Is it the chairman's understanding that the President's fiscal year 1996 budget request for this account includes \$800,000 to continue this late blight control program in Maine?

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I would like to point out that the committee recognizes the very serious threats to potato production posed by late blight, and the heavy damage that has been incurred to date in Maine and other States. In response to the Senators' question, I can confirm that the President's fiscal year 1996 budget request for pest management does include \$800,000 to continue the late blight control program described by the Maine senators.

Ms. SNOWE. On behalf of the Maine delegation, I would like to thank the Chairman for clarifying this matter.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Mr. CONRAD. As the Senator from Arkansas is aware, H.R. 1976 provides funding for the Agricultural Research Service to continue operating the ARS potato research facility in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, as an ARS worksite. Research direction and administration will be shifted to a primary ARS laboratory. The ARS Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center Northern Plains Area office in Fargo, North Dakota is located just 75 miles away, and is well equipped to handle administrative functions for the East Grand Forks facility. Is it the Senator's understanding that ARS should transfer the administrative responsibilities

called for in this legislation to the Fargo ARS facility?

Mr. BUMPERS. The Senator is correct. ARS should transfer administration of the East Grand Forks facility to the ARS research center in Fargo, North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Would the Chairman of the Subcommittee indicate whether he has the same understanding?

Mr. COCHRAN. I do agree with the Senator regarding the Fargo ARS center.

Mr. DORGAN. In addition, the bill contains funding for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to continue a cattail management program for blackbird control. Is it the Subcommittee's intention that APHIS should continue to use a portion of those funds for cattail management and blackbird control in North Dakota?

Mr. BUMPERS. The Senator is correct. APHIS should continue using a portion of available funds to continue the cattail management program in North Dakota.

Mr. COCHRAN. Let me add that I share Senator BUMPERS' understanding.

DISTANCE LEARNING AND MEDICAL LINK FUNDING

Mr. KERREY. I would like to ask the distinguished chairman for assistance in dealing with two matters that are very important to me and the people of Nebraska.

The Distance Learning and Medical Link Program was designed to demonstrate the ability of rural communities to utilize existing or proposed telecommunications systems to achieve sustainable cost-effective distance learning or proposed medical link networks.

In Nebraska, there is a distance learning partnership between the School at the Center Project, the Nebraska Math and Science Initiative, Project EduPort and the Nebraska Rural Development Commission that would provide access to advanced telecommunications services and computer networks and improve rural opportunities.

Another program designed to provide much needed technology to rural communities is the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP). Included in RCAP is the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program.

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development operates a program for innovative information technology applications that assists small and rural Nebraska businesses in becoming more competitive through effective use of information technology and telecommunications.

I feel that these are the types of projects contemplated under the Distance Learning and Medical Link Program and the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program, and I would ask the chairman to join me in encouraging the Department to give consideration to funding both of these proposals.

Mr. COCHRAN. The committee did urge the Department to give consideration to funding a number of applications for both of these programs. I appreciate the Senator bringing these proposals to my attention. I would urge the Department to give equal consideration to these applications as those included in the committee report.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I have been advised that Senator HEFLIN has two colloquies. These have not been submitted and will be submitted tomorrow.

Mr. President, let me make this unanimous consent request: Following the final vote on the Bumpers amendment, that it be in order if the colloquy has been submitted at that time and accepted by the floor managers, that a colloquy by Senator HEFLIN and Senator COCHRAN be eligible to be submitted for the RECORD, and a Hefflin colloquy with Senator COCHRAN on agricultural weather stations, that those two be in order to be inserted in the RECORD prior to final vote.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH EXTENSION AND EDUCATION SERVICE GRANTS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, my colleague from Michigan, Senator ABRAHAM, and I would like to engage the distinguished manager of the bill in a brief colloquy regarding an important Cooperative State Research Extension and Education Service [CSREES] grant that has supported innovative work conducted by Michigan State University [MSU] and the Michigan Biotechnology Institute [MBI]. Through CSREES support, MSU/MBI have been working to commercialize agricultural technologies, particularly those that stimulate new uses for agricultural commodities, from our Nation's universities and Federal laboratories.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Due in part to past CSREES Special Research Grant support, MSU/MBI has succeeded in creating five new companies using agricultural technologies. One company was created to market a new biodegradable plastic resin for applications such as plastic knives, forks and spoons used in fast food establishments. The new resin has all the benefits of conventional petroleum-based technology but you can throw it away and it will decompose without adding to our nation's landfills. This research has created new companies, new jobs, and increased Michigan's tax base. I strongly support these efforts.

Mr. LEVIN. The House fiscal year 1996 Agriculture Appropriations bill proposes to fund the Michigan Biotechnology Consortium—also read Institute—at \$1 million. This is approximately a 50% reduction from the FY95 level of \$1.995 million. I understand that the budget deficit demands sacrifice from all agencies and grant recipients, but a 50% cut will severely affect the cutting-edge work done by and the pace of technological innovation at MBI.

The Senate FY96 Agriculture Appropriations bill does not include funding for MBI under CSREES. However, the Senate conferees have receded to the House level for MBI in past years, with strong support from the Michigan Congressional delegation. I urge the Senate Conferees to once again accept the House's funding level and, if possible, return MBI funding to its FY95 level.

Mr. COCHRAN. I am aware of the valuable CSREES work that has been conducted by MSU/MBI. I assure my colleagues from Michigan that I will revisit MBI's FY96 funding in conference and will remember the Senators' strong support for MBI.

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 sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 464. An act to make the reporting deadlines for studies conducted in Federal court demonstration districts consistent with the deadlines for pilot districts, and for other purposes.

S. 532. An act to clarify the rules governing venue, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 641. An act to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

The message further announced the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 83. Joint resolution relating to the United States-North Korea Agreed Framework and the obligations of North Korea under that and previous agreements

with respect to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and dialogue with the Republic of Korea.

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. 42. Concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 83. Joint resolution relating to the United States-North Korea Agreed Framework and the obligations of North Korea under that and previous agreements with respect to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and dialogue with the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1451. A communication from the Comptroller General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the status of budget authority that was proposed for rescission in the special impoundment message for fiscal year 1995 (dated February 6, 1995); referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, Committee on the Budget, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Committee on Commerce, Science and Technology, Committee on the Environment and Public Works, Committee on Finance, Committee on Labor and Human Resources and the Committee on Small Business.

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-291. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

“SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

“Whereas, family violence is a severe problem in Texas, accounting for more than 22 percent of violent crime in the state; and

“Whereas, victims of family violence are frequently handicapped in their efforts to leave their abusers because of lack of support and shelter; and

“Whereas, current restrictions on food stamp applications may force some victims to return to their abusers due to requirements that a victim must seek and obtain refuge in a battered women's shelter to qualify for immediate reissuance of food stamps; and

“Whereas, in all of Texas there are only 62 full-service battered women's shelters, and these are frequently too crowded to accept new victims; and

“Whereas, the current federal policy frequently punishes victims of family violence: Now, therefore, be it

“Resolved, That the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to amend the food stamp program by adding a special provision to allow food stamp workers to reissue food stamp benefits to family members fleeing from domestic violence, regardless of where they seek refuge, provided the families present evidence that they were or are victims of domestic violence; and, be it further

“Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.”

POM-292. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Township of Old Bridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey relative to demonstration programs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-293. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas; to the Committee on Appropriations.

“SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 87

“Whereas, chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome is the medical term for a group of symptoms that include debilitating fatigue, fever, depression, and a reduced ability to undertake normal daily activities or to function productively; and

“Whereas, the disease affects people of all ages, interrupting the education and employment of those afflicted and imposing enormous social costs ranging from burdensome medical expenses to increased demand for disability payments and other social services; and

“Whereas, the syndrome was first recognized 10 years ago, but there has been little effort to find either a cause or a cure for the disease, with the result that patients are often misdiagnosed, receive inadequate medical treatment, and can face difficulty in receiving social services and public assistance; and

“Whereas, both present and future generations would benefit greatly if the resources of government were marshalled to eliminate the personal and social costs of this insidious and debilitating disease: Now, therefore, be it

“Resolved, That the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to increase federal funding for research relating to chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome; and, be it further

“Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all Members of the Texas delegation to the Congress, with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.”

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted: