

"(4) The percentage of the readjustment allowance or stipend (as the case may be) payable under paragraph (1), with respect to any period of volunteer service performed during—

"(A) January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996, shall be 3.25 percent;

"(B) January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, shall be 3.4 percent; and

"(C) January 1, 1998, through December 31, 2002, shall be 3.5 percent."

(2) NO REDUCTION IN AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—Agency contributions under section 8423 (a) and (b) of title 5, United States Code, shall not be reduced as a result of the amendments made under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 1996.

SEC. 8003. FEDERAL RETIREMENT PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) RELATING TO THE YEARS OF SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEES FOR PURPOSES OF COMPUTING AN ANNUITY.—

(1) CSRS.—Section 8339 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a) by inserting "or Member" after "employee"; and

(B) by striking out subsections (b) and (c).

(2) FERS.—Section 8415 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking out subsections (b) and (c);

(B) in subsections (a) and (g) by inserting "or Member" after "employee" each place it appears; and

(C) in subsection (g)(2) by striking out "Congressional employee".

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, may prescribe regulations to carry out the provisions of this section and the amendments made by this section for applicable employees and Members of Congress.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) YEARS OF SERVICE; ANNUITY COMPUTATION.—(A) The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply only with respect to the computation of an annuity relating to—

(i) the service of a Member of Congress as a Member or as a Congressional employee performed on or after January 1, 1996; and

(ii) the service of a Congressional employee as a Congressional employee performed on or after January 1, 1996.

(B) An annuity shall be computed as though the amendments made under subsection (a) had not been enacted with respect to—

(i) the service of a Member of Congress as a Member or a Congressional employee or military service performed before January 1, 1996; and

(ii) the service of a Congressional employee as a Congressional employee or military service performed before January 1, 1996.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The provisions of subsection (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Special Committee on Aging will hold a hearing on Thursday, November 2, 1995, at 10:00 a.m., in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The hearing will discuss Medicare and Medicaid fraud.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ABRAHAM. 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, October 26, 1995 to conduct a mark-up of S. 1260, the Public Housing Reform and Empowerment Act of 1995. In addition, the committee will conduct a mark-up of pending nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, October 26, 1995 at 9:30 a.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building to conduct a hearing on S. 1327, the Saddleback Mountain-Arizona Settlement Act of 1995, a bill to transfer certain lands to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the City of Scottsdale, AZ.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, October 26, 1995 at 9:30 a.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building to conduct a hearing on S. 1341, the Saddleback Mountain-Arizona Settlement Act of 1995, a bill to transfer certain lands to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the City of Scottsdale, AZ.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 1995.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing to discuss quality of care in nursing homes.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 1995, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony from academicians and State and local offi-

cials on alternatives to Federal forest land management. Testimony will also be sought comparing land management cost and benefits on Federal and State lands.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE APPROPRIATIONS

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to explain my votes on various amendments to the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill which passed on September 29.

The Specter amendment sought to strike the language from this bill that prohibited the use of Federal funds for abortions for women in Federal prison except where the life of the mother would be in danger if the fetus were carried to term or in the case of rape.

The House and the Senate have repeatedly upheld the position that when taxpayer funds are used for abortions, the abortions should be restricted to those pregnancies which are the result of rape or incest or which pose a risk to the life of the mother. I do not think these restrictions should be expanded for women in prison and, therefore, I voted to table the Specter amendment.

Senator KERREY offered an amendment to provide \$19.8 million for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's information infrastructure grants by cutting a like amount from the Justice Department's travel account. I opposed this amendment for several reasons. First, many of the NTIA's duties are duplicative of those carried out by the Federal Communications Commission. The underlying bill moves us toward a unified telecommunications entity, and I believe it is the correct path to take. Second, the infrastructure grants are an unauthorized program that have little relation to the job of regulating the telecommunications industry. Legislation I have sponsored to terminate the Department of Commerce would also eliminate the advisory and grant making functions and transfer the management duties to the FCC.

I also opposed a Domenici amendment to eliminate provisions in the bill which would, in my opinion, vastly improve the Legal Services Corporation.

The Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill in the Senate eliminated the Federal Corporation and block-granted to the States-Federal funds for the provision of legal services to the poor. The Domenici amendment to this bill would have restored the Federal Corporation and provides additional Federal funding for the Corporation.

I support eliminating the Federal Corporation and block-granting funds

for legal assistance for the poor to the States. The Corporation itself provides no legal services to the poor, but rather grants Federal money to local organizations that give legal assistance to the poor. This is a function the States can perform at least as effectively as the Corporation has.

I also opposed an amendment which was sponsored by Senators KOHL and COHEN which took \$80 million from funding for the FBI to combat violent crime and terrorism and put it into \$30 million for local block grants for various social programs such as boys and girls club, more palatably dubbed by the sponsors of such measures crime prevention programs, \$30 million for additional grants made by the Office of Justice Assistance, and \$20 million for additional grants for "Weed and Seed" programs.

The initiatives the sponsors sought to fund may well be worthy. In my judgment, however, many of them have no proven record of helping with the fight against crime, the purpose for which Federal crime money should be reserved. To be sure, the sponsors designated between 2 and 3 percent of the money for evaluation of these programs. But in the first place it is unlikely that serious evaluation can be performed with that budget; and in the second place, in my view, we should evaluate the programs before giving them additional funding. ●

GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, there has been much talk recently about how our Government is no longer able to solve society's problems, how it is unresponsive to citizens' needs, how people feel they do not have a say in how their country is run, and how it seems that when the Government makes decisions that affect industry, it does not seek their input beforehand. Well, I would like to share with my Senate colleagues a story that should help give a different perception.

It is a story about a mother who suffered a terrible tragedy and through it, summoned the strength and courage to help solve a serious problem across the country. The story is about Thelma Sibley, a woman from Milan, MI, who experienced the worst nightmare of any parent—the death of her child Nancy. Nancy Sibley died from a hidden hazard that no parent could be expected to anticipate. Nancy Sibley was strangled to death by the drawstring of her winter coat when the drawstring caught on a playground slide.

After her child's death, Thelma Sibley became dedicated to ensuring that no other parent would have to relive her experience. Thelma Sibley looked to the Government for help and answers. As it happened, Ann Brown had recently been appointed Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Chairman Brown was well aware of the danger drawstrings presented and reached out to Thelma for

help in solving this problem. Working together, Thelma Sibley and Ann Brown were able to bring together representatives from the Nation's 33 leading manufacturers of children's clothing. When these industry officials were presented with the evidence of what these drawstrings were capable of doing, there was no hesitation in their decision to remove drawstrings from virtually all of the 20 million kid's garments manufactured annually in this country.

It is indeed a remarkable story. I commend Thelma Sibley for her courage, and CPSC Chairman Ann Brown for bringing a human face to Government by reaching out personally to Thelma Sibley and working voluntarily with industry to solve this problem. I ask that the text of a Los Angeles Times article detailing this story be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

A POWERFUL PAIR
(By Elizabeth Mehren)

BETHESDA, Md.—This could be the story of the bureaucrat and the bereaved mother. Except that neither Ann Brown nor Thelma Sibley comes close to either stereotype.

Brown is a mother of two, grandmother of three and full-time advocate for children. As vice president of the Consumer Federation of America, she was such a thorn in the side of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission that many staffers feared her name. Imagine their reaction in March, 1994, when President Clinton named her to head the agency she so relentlessly watchdogged.

Sibley and her husband, Bob, live on a small farm in Michigan, where for 20 years she has worked as a color and soft-trim designer in the automotive industry. At 46, Sibley is a devout Baptist and projects the kind of calm that bespeaks solid, sensible values. She is probably one of a handful of Americans who refer to Hillary Rodham Clinton as "the First Mom."

On Jan. 4, 1994, Sibley's 5-year-old daughter, Nancy, was killed when the drawstring on her winter coat snagged on a spiral slide at her school playground and strangled her. The paths of Brown and Sibley were tied together by that drawstring. Both women see the friendship and collaboration that has blossomed between them as something organic, something vital and something that was probably preordained.

In her office here on the outskirts of Washington, Brown explained, "Were both strong women, determined women and women of faith. We're also both extremely pragmatic."

With a perfect poker face, Sibley—a full head taller and 12 years younger than the small, compact Brown—remarked, "We're twins. But we were separated at birth."

In Sibley's case, ridding the children's clothing world of the slender string that claimed Nancy's life became a crusade. She remembers all too well how after Nancy's death, her own words—the words of so many parents whose children succumb to tragically preventable accidents—kept pounding in her ears: "If I'd only known."

If she'd only known, she would never have bought a coat with a drawstring. If she'd only known, she would have ripped out the drawstrings on every item in Nancy's wardrobe. Never mind that it was January in Michigan—if she'd only known, she wouldn't have bundled Nancy into a hood that closed tight with a string.

After the death of a child, two extreme reactions are common. In one scenario, mothers and fathers descend into a paralyzing mi-

asma. Even the most ordinary of daily activities drains them. Conversely, some parents spin into a maelstrom of action. Psychologists call the latter response agitated depression.

That description captures the flurry of energy Thelma Sibley experienced after Nancy died. For a full seven months, her grief manifested itself kinetically. She ran on high speed but felt nothing. "I believe God put me in a numb chamber because he knew I had a job to get done," Sibley said.

The job began when, reviewing a report to the school board of Ann Arbor, where Nancy's accident occurred, Sibley came across the name of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. "I had never heard of the agency before that," She said.

While it made sense to Sibley that the school board and possibly her own state might investigate Nancy's death, she had no such expectations from the federal government. She viewed Washington as remote and alien, too tied up with politics to care much about people. "I was very surprised there actually was a federal agency, and that they were actually going to do a report," Sibley said.

She was also stunned to discover that drawstrings had been removed from children's clothing in Great Britain in 1976. In the same report she learned that the Canadian province of Ontario, just across the border from Michigan, had taken similar action in 1988, following the drawstring strangulations of five children. Her research also revealed that Nancy was one of a dozen American children to succumb to drawstrings since 1985. The strings were associated with an additional 27 nonfatal accidents.

"I thought, wait a minute, I live in Ann Arbor, Mich. We're not talking Upper Yukon here. How come I didn't know this?" Sibley said.

Sibley did what she always does in crisis. She prayed. The next thing she knew, she was writing to "the First Mom." She and her husband were not blaming anyone for their daughters death, Sibley wrote, but rather were seeking the voluntary removal of accessories on children's clothing that might cause harm. Since Nancy's accident occurred on an old, outdated slide that was subsequently dismantled, the Sibleys also wanted their child's death to help raise awareness about playground safety.

The White House wasted no time in forwarding Sibley's entreaty to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the same agency to which Sibley was referred when she contacted the Consumer's Union and Public Citizen, Ralph Nader's organization. This is where the tale takes on a Twilight Zone quality not normally found in stories concerning the federal government, for Brown, newly installed as chairwoman of the agency she once loved to hate, had already taken steps both to ban drawstrings from kids' clothes and to contact Thelma Sibley.

"There was a confluence," Brown said. "Both of us are convinced it was meant to be."

In Michigan, the inquiry into Nancy Sibley's death made headlines in April, 1994, three months after the death and just weeks after Brown began her government job. Although it was a Sunday when Brown came across the Sibley file, she instantly picked up the phone and called Nancy's parents.

As Brown knew from decades of activism, personal contact with parents is often a first step toward enlisting them as catalysts of change. Nearly 30 years ago, Brown took up her mission when her daughter Laura, then 2, began chewing on what looked like a piece of cherry candy—but turned out to be a potentially poisonous paint pellet. Brown and