

need to talk some more. We need to negotiate some more." That is all we have been doing this year in this body.

Democrats say they have not been invited to the party. They have been at the party now for 10 months. We have debated every item that we are talking about in reconciliation. We talked about the tax cut, we talked about the changes to Medicare, to Medicaid, to welfare, to every aspect of the budget. Everybody knows what the details are. The fact of the matter is, there are people who want to maintain the status quo. They are the party of government, big government, ever-growing government. It is their ticket to political success, they think. And there are many of us who feel that our debt is of such a staggering proportion, and growing at such an extraordinary rate, that this is the moment and this is the time where, if we do not grab a hold of it now, it may be too late.

So we have put a plan together to balance that budget. What we hear from the other side of the aisle is nit-picking about portions of this plan. And so we have said, "All right, Mr. President. We will set that aside and we will simply, in return for continuing the functioning of government, we will simply ask you to agree to sit down with us and negotiate a plan to balance the budget in a 7-year period of time, certified by the very accounting agency, the Congressional Budget Office, that you asked us to use."

So I do not know how much more we can give the President. We have essentially given him everything he has asked for. And so we are going to find out whether or not the President is really interested in balancing the budget, is really interested in keeping the promise he made to the American people in his campaign for the Presidency. We are going to put this on his desk and say, "Mr. President, we have now given you what you asked for. If you really believe this, sign the bill, and we're in business. If you veto it, we'll all know where you stand."

The bluff is going to be called. It will be called very quickly. And the American people will fully understand just who is willing to put it on the line for a balanced budget and who is not willing to put it on the line for a balanced budget. So we will know now in about the next 24 hours or so just who is upfront and who is straight out with the American people about the agenda that is best and good for this country.

I think everyone instinctively knows we cannot continue on the path that we are on. To continue on that path is bankruptcy for this Nation. Republicans are saying, "It's time to draw the line to make the tough choices, to balance the budget. Mr. President, why don't you join us?"

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time has expired.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, at 7:22 p.m., the Senate recessed until 9:05; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. HUTCHISON).

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 2 minutes each.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:08 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 bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1014. An act to authorize extension of time limitation for FERC-issued hydroelectric license.

H.R. 2366. An act to repeal unnecessary medical device reporting requirement.

The message also announced that the House has passed the bill (S. 790) to provide for the modification or elimination of Federal reporting requirements, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

At 1:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1868) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

At 3:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2020) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes; and insists on its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate.

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

H.R. 2539. An act to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission, to amend subtitle IV of title 49, United States Code, to reform economic regulation to transportation, and for other purposes.

economic regulation to transportation, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1014. An act to authorize extension of time limitation for FERC-issued hydroelectric license; to the Committee on Energy and Resources.

H.R. 2366. An act to repeal unnecessary medical device reporting requirement; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2539. An act to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission, to amend subtitle IV of title 49, United States Code, to reform economic regulation of transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1410. A bill making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1996.

S. 1411. A bill making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1996.

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-1597. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period April 1 to September 30, 1995; order to lie on the table.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BREAU:

S. 1412. A bill to designate a portion of the Red River in Louisiana as the "J. Bennett Johnston Waterway", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself and Mr. FAIRCLOTH):

S. 1413. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require that an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a license, license amendment, or permit for an activity that will result in a withdrawal by a State or political subdivision of a State of water from a lake that is situated in 2 States shall not be granted unless the Governor of the State in which more than 50 percent of the lake, reservoir, or other body of water is situated certifies that the withdrawal will not have an adverse effect on the environment in or economy of that State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HELMS, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 1414. A bill to ensure that payments during fiscal year 1996 of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, of

dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans, and of other veterans benefits are made regardless of Government financial shortfalls; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 1415. A bill entitled "Thrift Charter Conversion Act of 1995"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HATFIELD (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 1416. A bill to establish limitation with respect to the disclosure and use of genetic information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BREAU:

S. 1412. A bill to designate a portion of the Red River in Louisiana as the "J. Bennett Johnston Waterway," and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE J. BENNETT JOHNSTON WATERWAY DESIGNATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, I rise today, with respect and admiration for my colleague from Louisiana, the Honorable J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, in order to introduce legislation which will designate part of the Red River the "J. Bennett Johnston Waterway."

Senator JOHNSTON's diligence in serving the people of Louisiana for close to 30 years more than justifies this legislation and should be a reminder to those of us who have had the honor to serve in the Senate with him and to all who will serve here in the future what the word "service" truly means.

The work that Senator JOHNSTON has done to rebuild and rejuvenate the Red River and the communities that depend on it exemplifies the strength of his leadership and his commitment to the economic development of Louisiana.

For years, the many bends and excessive sedimentation in the Red River made it unnavigable to the barges and ships necessary for transporting local goods. The economy of the region that depended on the Red River became depressed.

Senator JOHNSTON has worked successfully for the last 22 years helping local communities and organizations obtain the funding necessary to create a modern waterway. As a result of this success, old and new businesses are moving back into the area, job opportunities are sprouting up again, and the hope that accompanied a new economic direction is taking root in the region.

In fact, the Army Corps of Engineers estimates that \$107 million in benefits will be generated annually and approximately 56,000 new jobs will be created in 40 years. Other benefits include cleaner water, improved and increased recreational use, the possibility of hydroelectric power in the future, and potential for greater agricultural utilization of the river.

Local organizations and residents recognize the positive growth resulting from this project as well as the sub-

stantial role Senator JOHNSTON played in making this growth a reality. In fact, it was local citizens who requested this naming legislation.

The many people who have worked with Senator JOHNSTON over the years know he was the key to this project's success and want to honor him for all that he has done to make the waterway a reality.

Each time we navigate the river, each time we use it to recreate and each time we realize economic benefits from the river, we will forever be mindful of the man whose unyielding leadership and dedication made it all possible, my colleague, my friend, and my senior Senator, the Honorable J. BENNETT JOHNSTON.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself and Mr. FAIRCLOTH):

S. 1413. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require that an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a license, license amendment, or permit for an activity that will result in a withdrawal by a State or political subdivision of a State of water from a lake that is situated in two States shall not be granted unless the Governor of the State in which more than 50 percent of the lake, reservoir, or other body of water is situated certifies that the withdrawal will not have an adverse effect on the environment in or economy of that State, and for other purposes; and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE LAKE GASTON PROTECTION ACT OF 1995

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, today Senator FAIRCLOTH and I are introducing the Lake Gaston Protection Act of 1995. The States of North Carolina and Virginia have been locked in a dispute for a decade as to whether the city of Virginia Beach should be able to withdraw water from Lake Gaston, which straddles both States.

Our bill stops the withdrawal of water from the lake until Federal officials listen to the concerns of countless thousands of citizens of both North Carolina and Virginia.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] approved a permit allowing the daily withdrawal of 60 million gallons from Lake Gaston—but the FERC officials did not look closely enough at the potential negative environmental effects of withdrawing 60 million gallons a day from the lake. In short, they failed to consider either the environmental problems or the adverse impact on striped bass and other fish species. A sharply reduced quantity of water flowing through the lower Roanoke River basin may very well be harmful to the estuaries of the Albemarle Sound in the spawning of many fish species.

And, Mr. President besides the environmental impact, the withdrawal could very well pose dire consequences to the commercial and recreational fishing industry that depends so heavily on an adequate exchange of fresh water and salt water in the estuary.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should have obtained certification from the State of North Carolina that there would be no degradation of water quality or the environment. Instead, FERC ran roughshod over the concerns of North Carolina.

Mr. President, Senator FAIRCLOTH's and my bill would require FERC to obtain certification from North Carolina that this project will have no, and I emphasize, no adverse impact on the environment or the local economy.

Mr. President, for the record, I believe a brief history of this dispute may be helpful.

Virginia Electric Power Co., on behalf of Virginia Beach, applied to the FERC for permission to construct a water intake on Pea Hill Cove of Lake Gaston and a 76-mile pipeline to withdraw up to 60 million gallons per day.

Both the City of Virginia Beach and the State of North Carolina have marched back and forth in the Federal courts over this issue. North Carolina raised many concerns of water quality and the adverse effects on the downstream ecosystems. North Carolina officials assert that FERC did a far too hasty job on its environmental analysis. FERC allowed only 2 months for the review of the reams of environmental data.

Furthermore North Carolina asserts that FERC staff failed to conduct studies requested by several Federal agencies, including the EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries, and independent biologists.

After much litigation, a Federal mediator was appointed by the Federal courts within the past 18 months, to look into the possibility of bringing the State of North Carolina and the city of Virginia Beach to an agreement on the issue.

A final settlement agreement was reached on June 26, and was supported by both Virginia Senators. I have a copy of a letter signed by both Senators to the Governors of North Carolina and Virginia in support of the agreement. I ask unanimous consent that the text of this letter be placed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the settlement was subject to ratification of an Interstate compact by both State legislatures and approval by the Congress. According to the officials in North Carolina, this agreement protects the interests of the three North Carolina counties that surround the lake. As of now, neither State has ratified the compact.

The communities that surround the lake in Northampton, Warren, and Halifax Counties in North Carolina are greatly dependent on it to support their economies. According to a November 2, 1993, article in the Lake Gaston Gazette, property owners around the lake paid over \$253 million in 1993 real estate and personal property