

Committee, that would object to the Senator's amendment. I am put in the position of trying to secure some advice and counsel now from at least the ranking member of the Commerce Committee. So, we will be delayed for some time because he is in a conference, and we will have to try to reach him and see what we can do.

So, Mr. President, I have no alternative but to suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT 3063, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To modify the manager's amendment)

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk to modify the manager's amendment. This amendment just changes one word, and it has been agreed to by both sides of the aisle.

I send the amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside.

The amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

On page 3 of the amendment, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following: "On page 311, line 16, insert 'reasonable' after 'a'."

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

GOOD NEWS FOR ALASKANS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to say this is a good day for my State of Alaska. This afternoon President Clinton signed legislation which lifts the ban on the export of Alaskan North Slope crude oil and authorizes the sale of the Alaska Power Administration.

Alaskans have been fighting for both of these provisions for more than 20 years. The ban on the export of our own oil was unjust and unconstitutional, as I have said here on the floor many times. Before today, Alaska was the only State prohibited from exporting its most valuable product. There is no ban on the sale of oil from Texas or the exporting of apples from Washington State. I see the distinguished occupant of the chair is from my southern neighboring State.

Today's action by the President lifts years of discrimination against Alaska, and I think it proves that perseverance can overcome bad policy. Lifting this

ban will promote domestic oil production, provide jobs, and make Alaska less dependent on foreign oil. The ban has had the unintended effect of actually threatening our energy security by discouraging further energy production in the south 48 and creating unfair hardships for a struggling oil industry in the United States.

Fundamentally, the existing export restriction distorts the crude oil markets in Alaska and on the west coast. The inability to export Alaskan North Slope crude oil depresses the open market price of Alaska North Slope crude on the west coast, which is essentially the only market for our oil. Some people will tell us that it makes no sense to lift the export ban while Congress is pursuing an effort to authorize oil exploration on Alaska's arctic coastal plain. And nothing could be further from the truth.

Lifting the export ban simply restores a true market price for Alaskan oil, and the west coast will still be the principle consumer of that product. What this new law does is allow an Alaskan product to be sold at a fair price, the same demand farmers in the Midwest make when they sell their crops or automakers in Detroit make when they sell their products.

The Department of Energy noted in a 1994 study of the export ban that the result of the export ban means "that the west coast generates the largest gross refiner margins in the world."

So what does this new law do? It puts fairness back into the economic system and removes an ugly vestige of protectionism.

One of the main reasons I have come to the floor is to congratulate the chairman of the Energy Committee, my colleague and good friend, Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI. I also congratulate Congressman DON YOUNG, chairman of the House Resources Committee. My two colleagues made great efforts to shepherd this bill through the legislative process.

Actually, Mr. President, I think the President signed the bill principally to help California because most of the jobs to be restored will be in California. And I do thank him and Energy Secretary O'Leary for their support of this bill.

The Department of Energy did issue a comprehensive report last year that proved once and for all that the ban on exporting Alaskan oil made no sense. Lifting that ban will create 25,000 jobs nationally, most of them in California, as I said, and could return substantial funds to the Nation and to the States of California and Alaska.

The sale of the Alaska Power Administration is another item, an item that I have worked on for more than two decades. During the Nixon administration, I introduced in the Senate the first bill to authorize the sale of this entity.

Today's actions restore some of the promise that was made when we obtained statehood for Alaskans. We al-

ways sought to be a full partner with other States. For too long, Alaska has been treated as a second-class citizen, and I think the export ban was one example. The refusal to pass the law to sell the Alaska Power Administration, as was requested by our citizens 20 years ago, is also an example of just holding up something that was good for Alaska because one Senator in the Congress opposed it.

I do believe that in a State where the Federal Government controls more than 70 percent of the land that we should have been able to export our oil as a marketable product. There would have been a great deal more demand for Alaska's oil exploration in the last period particularly since the discovery of oil on the North Slope. I think it was unfortunate that that was one of the provisions we had to agree to to obtain approval by Congress of the bill that gave us authority to grant the right-of-way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

In my judgment, this has been a long time coming. There is still a long line of actions, Mr. President. The Alaskans have requested us to give them full rights of statehood, and I intend to come to the Senate and ask for those rights as the time goes by.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from South Dakota is recognized.

OPPOSED TO SENDING TROOPS

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I am opposed to sending troops to Bosnia based on the information I now have. I base that judgment, in part, on my own experience as a lieutenant in the Army in Vietnam many years ago. It has been my observation that our soldiers have a very hard time in a civil-war situation in another country, and that is because our soldiers are frequently used essentially as shields. We value human life so highly that we react very strongly to any body bags coming back or to any casualties, as we should.

There is probably no other country in the world that reacts to its soldiers being killed or captured as we do in the United States, and again, Mr. President, we should act that way. Any action by our soldiers will be shown on television in living color. If there are any funerals, they will be a nationwide event. U.S. soldiers become shields and hostages and symbols very quickly.

If we had a vital interest that we could accomplish there, I would be for

it. Unfortunately, it is my strong feeling that the various civil wars in Yugoslavia since the 15th century have been augmented by virtue of having foreign troops come into what is now Yugoslavia and enter into the civil war.

The current civil war there has been extended because foreign troops have come. Let us analogously consider our Civil War in the United States. There were not foreign troops involved, and it was settled. It was a bloody, gruesome war, but it was settled. Let us just imagine foreign troops had come to our Civil War. We probably would still be fighting it today.

What is happening in Yugoslavia is that they are on the border between East and West, between the Moslem world and Christian world, between all the empires of the East and West. Every time they have a civil war, foreign troops come and get involved, and we are part of that pattern. We are doing the same thing.

I do not believe our troops are going to be able to solve the problem there. I think they are going to be shields and hostages. I think, as occurred in Haiti, our best intentions will not result in our intended consequences. We are receiving reports that in Haiti, all the money our taxpayers spent, plus the presence of the U.S. troops, have been for nought, because now President Aristide is indicating he wants to stay on, or at least that has been the indication. There is rioting in the streets, and it does not seem we accomplished the objectives the taxpayers were asked to pursue.

So I know our President is acting in the best faith, but based on my personal experiences as a soldier in Vietnam, I believe this is a mistake. Some people have said to me, "Are you willing to support the President?" Of course, I want to support the President, but I have a great deal of difficulty because of my personal experiences. I served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a lieutenant and based on that experience, I am opposed to our troops going into Bosnia.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION SUNSET ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3067 WITHDRAWN

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I have conferred with individuals whose interest in the amendment which I had proposed has been expressed, and they have been very cordial in their willingness to work to try and accommodate

the objectives which I have expressed in filing the amendment, and because we have an opportunity to work toward those objectives together—and I would hope that we can do so effectively—I at this time withdraw my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has the right to withdraw his amendment. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Missouri does have a real problem, and some of that language looked as if he had a good solution but in some instances could have gone too far. The truth of the matter is I am not positive about it, but I am delighted to work with the distinguished Senator and I hope we can get that problem solved for him. I appreciate it.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, now that we are about where we were at 3 o'clock this afternoon, maybe we will be successful at this time. I think we are ready to pass this bill if the Chair would see fit to recognize the Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I commend my colleague from Missouri for his leadership, and we look forward to him revisiting this issue again.

At this time, I ask that the bill be read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill is open to further amendment. If there be no further amendment to be proposed, the question is on agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2539, the House companion, and that the Senate immediately proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2539) 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask further that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1396, as amended, be inserted in lieu thereof and that H.R. 2539 be read a third time, and the Senate then immediately vote on passage of H.R. 2539.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. EXON. We have no objection.

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

The question is on the engrossment of the amendment and third reading of the bill.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 2539), as amended, was passed, as follows:

(The text of the bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. EXON. I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. PRESSLER. I finally ask unanimous consent that S. 1396 be placed back on the calendar.

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

Mr. PRESSLER. Finally, Mr. President, I want to take just a moment to thank some of the staff and individuals who worked so hard to make this legislation possible. They have been working for many months and deserve our thanks. First, let me thank Chris McLean of Senator EXON's staff and Clyde Hart and Carl Bentzel of the committee's minority staff. On the committee's majority staff, I want to thank Tom Hohenthanner and Mike King for their hard work in bringing us to this point. Each of these staff members demonstrated the kind of bipartisan initiative that epitomized the process and the professionalism that made the legislation possible. Finally, I wish to give the highest praise to Ann Begeman for her diligent work on this bill. She displayed great persistence and leadership and I want to especially recognize her efforts.

Let me also thank Linda Morgan, chairman of the ICC, for all her guidance and expertise. Her efforts are much appreciated. I also want to thank a staff member of the ICC, Ellen Hansen, who was generously detailed to the committee by the agency and who has worked very hard, and provided the technical expertise necessary to produce legislation that provides a reasonable and orderly transition. I very much appreciate the professional work done by all these dedicated individuals.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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