

AMENDMENT NO. 274

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 274 proposed to House Joint Resolution 1, a joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place Monday, March 6, 1995, at 2 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding S. 333, the Department of Energy Risk Management Act of 1995.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Maureen Koetz at (202) 224-0765.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, February 23, 1995 at 9:30 a.m. in open session to receive testimony from the unified commanders on their military strategies, operational requirements, and the defense authorization request for fiscal year 1996, including the future years defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, February 23, 1995 at 10 a.m. for a hearing on S. 4 and S. 14, line-item veto.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, February 23, at 10 a.m. for a markup on S. 219, Regulatory Transition Act of 1995, and S. 4 and S. 14, line-item veto.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HATCH. 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,

February 23, 1995, on the nominations of:

Sandra L. Lynch, of Massachusetts, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the First Circuit;

Lacy H. Thornburg, of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina;

Sidney H. Stein, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York;

Thadd Heartfield, of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas; and

David Folsom, of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on reauthorization of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 23, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure be granted permission to meet Thursday, February 23, 1995, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing on the legislation to approve the National Highway System and the Department of Transportation's fiscal year 1996 budget request for the Federal-aid highway program.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LONG-TERM CARE FAMILY PROTECTION ACT OF 1995

• Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, last week I introduced legislation aimed at improving access to affordable long-term care services. This bill allows families with exorbitant health care bills to deduct long-term care costs as medical expenses, creates incentives for older Americans and their families to plan for future long-term care expenses, and removes tax barriers that stifle the private long-term care insurance market.

Henry David Thoreau once wrote that "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."

Each day Americans, quite unknowingly, heed Thoreau's advice as they work to safeguard their families, their homes, and their dreams from the precarious circumstances life may hand them from time to time. As he suggests, we work not only to build our

castles, but strive to protect them once they are built.

Unfortunately, most of us have not adequately protected ourselves and our families from one of the most devastating financial risks that could face us in our entire lifetime—the need for long-term care services.

While approximately 38 million people lack basic health insurance, almost every American family is exposed to the catastrophic costs of long-term care. In fact, less than 3 percent of all Americans have insurance to cover long-term care. With average nursing home costs nearing \$40,000 per year and home health care costing from \$50 to \$200 per day, long-term care expenses can quickly wipe out the lifetime savings of a disabled individual and his or her family.

Sadly, many families erroneously assume that their current insurance or Medicare will cover long-term care expenses. It is only when a loved-one becomes disabled that they discover coverage is limited to acute medical care and that long nursing home stays and extended home care services must be paid for out-of-pocket. In fact, a 1994 public opinion poll conducted for the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that 45 percent of all respondents believe that Medicare pays for long-term care, when in fact it does not.

And despite what many of us believe, the chance of needing long-term care is significant and increasing as life expectancies increase. In 1990 for example, people age 65 or older faced a 43-percent risk of entering a nursing home. About 1 in 5 of those seniors are estimated to be in a nursing home stay over 1 year, about 1 in 10 would be in a facility for 5 years or longer and many more would receive caregiving from friends, families, and home care workers.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I know the obstacles many disabled older Americans and their families face paying for necessary long-term care. Despite heroic caregiving efforts by spouses, children, and friends, many disabled Americans do not receive the appropriate medical and social services they desperately need. Families are literally torn apart or pushed to the brink of financial disaster due to the overwhelming costs of long-term care.

This lack of protection pulls the rug out from under hard working families at a time when they are in their greatest need. Growing frail or learning to function with severe disabilities is a formidable task in itself. Yet this is only half the battle for an uninsured older American—since at the same time they must face huge financial burdens posed by long-term care.

The legislation levels the playing field between acute and long-term care services, and provides all Americans with incentives to purchase protection against the risk of catastrophic long-term care expenses. As healthy and as independent as we may want to stay,

the fountain of youth has yet to be discovered.

We are all vulnerable to diseases such as Alzheimer's Parkinson's, and osteoporosis that can leave us mentally or physically disabled. We must accept the risk of needing long-term care and consider it in our normal retirement planning.

This bill encourages personal responsibility and makes it easier for individuals to plan for their future long-term care needs. It provides important tax incentives for the purchase of long-term care insurance and places consumer protections on long-term care insurance policies so quality products will be affordable and accessible to more Americans.

It allows States to develop programs under which individuals can keep more of their assets and still qualify for Medicaid if they take steps to finance their own long-term care needs, allows individuals to make tax free withdrawals from their individual retirement accounts without penalty if they purchase private long-term care insurance, and provides for consumer education to help families decide how to best plan for their own particular circumstances.

Stimulating the private market through tax incentives and asset protection programs is a long-term investment in reducing Americans' reliance on Medicaid, and other Federal and State entitlements. Just as employer-sponsored health insurance got a boost after Congress exempted employers' payments for health insurance from corporate taxes, the long-term care market needs a major boost if we are seriously going to encourage individuals to provide for their own long-term care needs.

Last year Congress was involved in an exhausting debate over how to reform our entire health care system. To my great disappointment, that debate did not yield legislation that could be passed on a bipartisan basis. Instead we fought an all or nothing battle for health care reform that left the American public no better off than when we began.

Long-term care reform was one of the victims of this all or nothing strategy. Several bills contained provisions to establish a non-means-tested long-term care program that would have cost taxpayers over \$48 billion. While the program would have certainly provided necessary long-term care services to many families, it was simply unrealistic to build a large publicly funded program at a time when we were trying to balance the budget. Furthermore, creating a non-means-tested program would have only strengthened the misconception that the Government will pay for long-term care and that there is little need to purchase protection.

As Abraham Lincoln once cautioned, "We must not promise what we ought not, lest we be called on to perform what we cannot."

The provisions included in the long-term care reform bill I am introducing

today are not only reasonable, but enjoy strong bipartisan support. They were included in almost every health care bill introduced last year and are an important part of the Senior's Equity Act in the House Republican Contract With America.

A strong private long-term care market will not only give individuals greater financial security for their future, but will ease the financial burden on the Federal Government for years to come, as our population ages and more elderly persons require long-term care.

I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation which will improve the financial security of older Americans and their families both now and in the future. •

RELEASE OF GAO HIGH RISK LIST REPORT

• Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, the General Accounting Office [GAO] has just released its second series of reports which identify the Federal program areas they consider most vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement—placing hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars at risk.

GAO began its high-risk program in 1990, with much encouragement on my behalf as the then-chairman of the Committee on Governmental Affairs. Its purpose was to highlight problems that were costing the Government—meaning U.S. taxpayers—billions of dollars.

In 1992, GAO issued a series of reports that outlined the problems, root causes, and needed actions for each of the areas designated as high-risk. At that time, some agencies were beginning to address their high risks but progress was minimal and the task ahead was daunting.

Under my leadership, the Committee on Governmental Affairs strongly supported GAO's high-risk effort. We worked with them as well as agency heads to address problems resulting from a lack of accountability and weak management controls. We also labored hard to provide the necessary oversight and follow-up legislation, on a bipartisan basis, to finally begin addressing these major problems and start a concentrated and systemic approach to governmentwide management.

Efforts like strengthening and expanding the Inspectors General Act to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. Or the Chief Financial Officers [CFO] Act of 1990, which is forcing Federal agencies to establish formal financial management structures, including a chief financial officer, and that for the very first time in our Nation's history will produce audited financial statements for certain accounts and programs. Just last year, we also passed the Government Management Reform Act [GMRA] which, among other things, will require—beginning with fiscal year 1997—an audited financial statement on programs and operations for the Government as a whole.

Also, I was pleased to work with Senator ROTH, our new committee chairman with a long interest in these areas, to pass the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act [GPRA]. This legislation mandates that Federal agencies develop performance measurement systems so that we can begin to determine how these programs are working, whether they meet their objectives, and what return and value we are getting for our money.

Another important bipartisan effort is our committee's continuing work to reauthorize the Paperwork Reduction Act. As in the last Congress, our committee has reported out legislation to reauthorize and improve the act. We are now waiting action by the full Senate, which we are sure will duplicate last year's unanimous vote in favor of the legislation. Our bill strengthens the Act's paperwork clearance requirements. It also gives new focus to the Act's information resources management [IRM] provisions. The IRM reforms are critically important and will help agencies address the information technology risks highlighted in GAO's new report.

One other area here deserves attention, that is comprehensive procurement reform legislation, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act [FASA] of 1994, which was passed due to the efforts of myself and several other Members on both sides of the aisle. It significantly streamlines the procurement process, saving time and taxpayer dollars, through the revision and consolidation of acquisition states to bring a dose of common sense and reality into our acquisition process.

I do believe that as these laws become more fully implemented, as well as integrated, we will have come a long way toward finally getting control of the creature we call "government." These measures will, unlike any previous laws we have passed, improve the performance of Federal programs and allow us to use financial and budgetary information to better chart the course of Government expenditures.

But, as this GAO series shows, we are not there yet. In fact, we have quite a ways to go.

That is not to say there is not any good news the taxpayers can be thankful for. On the contrary, there is.

For example, according to GAO, 5 out of the 18 previously designated high risk areas have made enough progress as a result of this concentrated effort to be taken off the list. The Bank Insurance Fund, for instance, went from being in the red, that is from having a negative fund balance to a \$17.5 billion surplus since the last report. The dramatic turnaround was caused by the combination of an improving economy, legislative actions, and agency and industry reforms.

Congressional actions also played a key role in reducing the risks posed by the Resolution Trust Corporation