

Whereas Senator Byrd has devoted tireless energy and tremendous effort to the preparation and publication of the historical books, enabling citizens of the United States to better understand the history, traditions, and uniqueness of the Senate; and

Whereas a better understanding by people of the Senate and the role of the Senate in our constitutional system of government will foster respect and appreciation for the democratic traditions of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate extends congratulations and appreciation to Senator Robert C. Byrd for completing "The History of the United State Senate", a monumental achievement that will educate and inspire citizens of the United States about the Senate for generations to come.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MEDICARE SELECT POLICY EXPANSION

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I inquire of the Chair if H.R. 483 has arrived from the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes; it has.

Mr. GORTON. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 483) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit Medicare select policies to be offered in all States, and for other purposes.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I now ask for the second reading.

Mr. DASCHLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move the Senate go into executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 105.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dennis M. Duffy, of Pennsyl-

vania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the nomination appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nomination was considered and confirmed.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am delighted to join the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. SIMPSON], in bringing the nomination of Dennis Duffy to be VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and planning before the Senate and urging his confirmation.

Dennis is a career VA employee who began working for VA in the Pittsburgh regional office in 1974, 2 years after he returned from Vietnam, where he served with the American division. For most of his career, he worked on benefits matters, both in the field and in VA central office. Most recently, Dennis has been working in Congressional Affairs, where he is now the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Liaison.

The White House first indicated its intention last year to nominate Dennis for this position, but his nomination was not received until after adjournment, so we were unable to take it up. I was delighted when the President again submitted this nomination early in this Congress.

I think the job for which Dennis has been nominated—the VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning—is terribly important. This vital position has been vacant for nearly a year, and it is important that the Senate act on this nomination quickly so as to restore leadership to the office.

I had a very strong interest in the role VA's Office of Policy and Planning played in health care reform during the last Congress, and I anticipate that there is an important ongoing role in that area as the Congress seeks to address eligibility reform and other health care matters. I am also very interested in many other exciting issues that the office undertakes, which I look forward to working on with Dennis in the weeks and months ahead.

I am very excited that Dennis will join another VA Assistant Secretary, Mark Catlett, as the second career VA employee nominated to an advice and consent position within VA. Dennis' nomination to this position—a key position within VA—is a very positive message for career employees throughout VA.

Mr. President, Dennis Duffy has a wonderful opportunity to serve the veterans of the Nation in this new office. President Clinton has shown great confidence in him, his work, and his com-

mitment to veterans by nominating him to serve in this important position. I urge my colleagues to give their unanimous support to this nomination.

MALIGNMENT OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 32, the joint resolution by Senators HATCH and BIDEN, and further that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the joint resolution and preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

So the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 32) was passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution and its preamble are as follows:

[The joint resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future issue of the RECORD.]

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

DO NOT VETO H.R. 831

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I would like to address a certain letter that is being passed around in the House to be sent to the President. I understand that the President may have already received it. The letter urges the President to veto H.R. 831, Permanent Deduction of Health Care Insurance Costs of Self-Employed Individuals. The letter has over 139 House Democrats' signatures.

The conference report to H.R. 831 passed the House last week, and we passed it in the Senate on Monday. The President received the bill on Tuesday, April 4, and it lies there waiting for the President to sign it into public law.

It is critical to 3.2 million tax filers that this bill be enacted prior to April 17—tax day. If it is not, then 11 days from now, less than 2 weeks, 3.2 million filers will find that they cannot use a deduction that they have had since 1986. Mr. President, 3.2 million filers will find that they will have to pay more taxes than they did last year. And Mr. President, these 3.2 million filers are farmers, and small business owners all across America.

THE LETTER

Now, this letter alludes that Republicans somehow carved out a special

exception for one pending deal. I want to set the record straight.

The conference report simply clarifies the definition of a binding contract, and let me add that this clarification was raised by a Democrat Member, not a Republican.

Second, the letter insinuates that during conference, Republicans took out a provision imposing a tax on U.S. citizens who renounce citizenship.

Mr. President, we have already been through this. We explained earlier this week, that in the Senate we agreed to impose taxation on U.S. citizens who renounce citizenship. But, this measure was adopted without the benefit of hearings. Subsequently, the Finance Committee's oversight subcommittee held a preliminary hearing. This proposal raises important questions, and the hearings exposed some serious concerns. We simply decided to not delay action on H.R. 831 while we continued to consider alternatives to this expatriate provision. That is right, let me set the record straight once again—we are not opposing this in any way. Just the opposite, we want to get this done.

The conferees asked the Joint Committee on Taxation to study this provision and other alternatives and get back to us by June 1, 1995. It is also clear that this provision will be effective as of February 6.

But while concerns remained with the provision, we did not include it in H.R. 831.

Also, Mr. President, during floor debate in the House on the tax bill, one of the signatories of the letter, Congressman GEPHARDT, tried to put a similar expatriate tax provision in the tax bill—with an effective date of October 1, 1996, much later than the Finance Committee provision.

The letter to the President claims that House Democrat Members want to close an important tax loophole for millionaires, but it seems like they want to close it very slowly.

CONCLUSION

It is my sincere hope that the President gets the record straight. Because if he does not, and he decides to play politics as usual, then 3.2 million farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and taxpayers will suffer for it.

It has been 3 days since the President received H.R. 831, and I urge the President to sign it into law. There is no reason to delay any longer. It should be signed as soon as possible so that taxpayers can finish preparing their tax returns in time.

TRIBUTE TO NELLE M. BIGBEE

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Mrs. Nelle M. Bigbee, a native of Tuscumbia, AL, passed away on March 8 at the age of 92. An accomplished writer, news commentator, artist, poet, and public speaker, Nelle was the first female newscaster in the State of Alabama. Her daily radio and television programs, which were such a fixture of the Tuscumbia community, won many

awards from the American Women in Radio and Television Organization.

Nelle Bigbee wrote for numerous publications and received many awards from the Associated Press as well. She participated in many community, church, civic, and professional activities, including the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and United Way, just to name a few. She was instrumental in organizing the first Helen Keller play, and acted the part of "Aunt Ev" for several years. She held the distinction of being the first female candidate to run for elected representative to the Alabama Legislature.

She was a wonderful neighbor of mine. She and her departed husband Hatton were great friends. She was admired and loved by all who knew her.

Nelle Bigbee indeed lived a long, rich, and multifaceted—even trailblazing—life. The talented Alabama journalists and commentators of today owe her a great deal of thanks for her pioneering spirit and determination. I extend my condolences to her entire family in the wake of their loss, and join her many friends and admirers in reflecting on the many outstanding accomplishments that defined her life and work.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, Thursday, April 6, the Federal debt stood at \$4,872,967,679,626.75. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,497.87 as his or her share of that debt.

PRESSLER AMENDMENT: STAY THE COURSE

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I join the President, Members of Congress, and the American people in welcoming the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, to the United States. I wish her well during her visit. I had the opportunity to meet with her in Pakistan just a few months after her reelection as Prime Minister in October 1993. I enjoyed visiting her beautiful country. The opportunity for lasting peace and economic growth both within Pakistan and throughout South Asia should be a top priority for the United States and all the countries of that region.

I suspect that it is largely due to the visit of Prime Minister Bhutto that the Clinton administration once again is publicly questioning the effectiveness of the so-called Pressler amendment, the law that prohibits direct United States aid to Pakistan.

As my colleagues know, it was 10 years ago that I successfully offered an amendment in the Foreign Relations Committee to cut off aid and military sales to Pakistan if the President could not certify that Pakistan did not possess a nuclear explosive device. The Reagan administration supported the

amendment. In fact, they helped write it. Even the Government of Pakistan did not object to the amendment because they claimed they were not pursuing a nuclear option.

In fact, my amendment was considered a compromise. Our former colleague from California, Senator Alan Cranston, had another amendment that immediately would have cut off aid to Pakistan, without Presidential certification, because he believed Pakistan already possessed the materials needed to assemble a nuclear bomb.

In October of 1990, nearly 5 years after the Pressler amendment became law, the Bush administration was unable to certify that Pakistan was not in possession of a nuclear explosive device. As a result, all U.S. direct aid and military sales were terminated. At the time of the aid cutoff, Pakistan was attempting to purchase a fleet of F-16's from the United States. Because of the enforcement of the Pressler amendment, delivery of the aircraft never took place.

Despite claiming to have a strong policy on nuclear nonproliferation, the Clinton administration consistently has shown hostility toward the Pressler amendment—the only nuclear nonproliferation law with teeth. In the fall of 1993, the Clinton administration called for the repeal of the Pressler amendment, but backed off after pressure from Members of Congress.

The Clinton administration last year began to float a new proposal to grant a one-time waiver of the Pressler amendment to allow for the delivery of at least 22 of the F-16 aircraft sought by Pakistan—aircraft that can carry and drop a nuclear bomb. The administration's proposal was originally unconditional, but was later modified with a condition that Pakistan promise to cap its nuclear weapons arsenal.

In recent weeks, the Clinton administration has been at it again, proposing a \$1 billion package of military equipment, consisting mainly of the F-16's. Frankly, Mr. President, I find simply preposterous any proposal that would transfer even one F-16 to Pakistan without first securing that nation's compliance with the Pressler amendment and its signature on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty [NPT].

The latest Clinton F-16 transfer plan—like the first—is unacceptable. I am astounded that an administration that pays so much lip service to the cause of nuclear nonproliferation would consider providing Pakistan with aircraft capable of carrying a nuclear weapon.

Never before in history has a nation sought to transfer nuclear delivery vehicles to a country that has nuclear weapons and say it is doing so in the interest of nuclear nonproliferation. The Clinton plan defies basic common sense.

Indeed, President Clinton's proposed military aid package to Pakistan would have the worst of consequences: It would strike a serious blow against