

acquired within the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area pursuant to this title shall be managed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate, so as to maintain the presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) VALUATION.—The values of the lands and interests in lands to be exchanged under this title and described in section 202(b) are deemed to be of approximately equal value.

(d) LIABILITY FOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.—

(1) The Secretary shall not acquire any lands under this title if the Secretary determines that such lands, or any portion thereof, have become contaminated with hazardous substances (as defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601)).

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States shall have no responsibility or liability with respect to any hazardous wastes or other substances placed on any of the lands covered by this title after their transfer to the ownership of another party, but nothing in this title shall be construed as either diminishing or increasing any responsibility or liability of the United States based on the condition of such lands on the date of their transfer to the ownership of another party.

ORDERS FOR TOMORROW, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1995

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 4, 1995; that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there then be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each except for the following: Senator THOMAS, 30 minutes; Senator BRADLEY, 15 minutes; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 30 minutes; Senator LAUTENBERG, 10 minutes; Senator FAIRCLOTH, 5 minutes; and Senator KERREY, 15 minutes.

I further ask unanimous consent that at the hour of 11:30, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 956, the product liability bill.

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, so that you know that there is another side here, we have no objections.

PROGRAM

Mr. GORTON. For the information of all Senators, there will be a series of stacked votes beginning at 12:15 tomorrow on or in relation to several amendments that were offered during today's session. Also, there will be at least one cloture vote on the Gorton substitute occurring at the end of the stacked sequence. In addition, under rule XXII, second-degree amendments must be filed at the desk 1 hour prior to the cloture vote.

ORDER FOR RECESS UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. GORTON. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, following the remarks of the distinguished Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

APPOINTMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair has an announcement.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S. Code 276d-276g, as amended, appoints the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] as Vice Chairman of the Senate delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the 104th Congress.

Mr. FORD. I thank the Chair.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will use my leader time as in morning business. There are a couple of issues I would like to address. As I understand it, once my remarks have been made, the Senate will then go into recess. So I will summarize my remarks at this point.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1996

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today is May 3, more than a month after the law requires a budget resolution to be reported to the Senate for debate. It is 18 days past April 15, when the law requires a budget resolution to have been completed and passed.

Yet, the Senate Budget Committee has not even begun to mark up a resolution. Instead, a scheduled markup has been delayed until May 8, so nothing will be done until then.

Yet, the current majority has inherited a budget from the last Congress in which the deficit is declining. Its task should be easier than the task of the

last Congress, which made the tough decisions that led to deficit decline.

Meanwhile, although our task in the last Congress was a harder one, and we achieved it with no Republican help, we did so within the deadlines set by law.

Republicans campaigned on the claim that they could cut taxes, protect defense spending, and balance the budget, all without touching Social Security benefits. That was the message heard around the country all year last year. That was the message to which Americans responded: Cut taxes, protect defense spending, and balance the budget, without affecting Social Security.

Now the time is already past for the first downpayment on that promise—the budget resolution required by law.

All we are hearing is the stirring sound of people changing the subject. Republicans have discovered that the Medicare Program faces challenges in the years ahead. Democrats told them and the Nation that 2 years ago, when we shored up the Medicare Program and cut the deficit, all without Republican votes.

Throughout the last 2 years, Republicans have rejected each and every proposal offered to help shore up the Medicare Program, with rhetoric about reduced choices and higher taxes.

Now it is time to deliver. If Democratic solutions to the long-term problems of an aging population are no good, let us hear Republican solutions.

I fear we will not, because there are not any. The Republican discovery of a well-known fact is nothing but an effort to distract Americans from their real intentions. House Republicans are considering reductions in Medicare growth on the order of \$300 billion. Senate Republicans have said they will need to reduce normal Medicare growth by \$200 to \$250 billion.

They all say they are not cutting, they are just reducing growth. But if a program grows because more people age and become eligible for it, it is pretty obvious that the same number of dollars will stretch a lot thinner.

Medicare program costs are increasing because all health insurance costs are increasing. In fact, on a per capita basis, Medicare and Medicaid costs are increasing at the same rate as privately insured costs. If Medicare growth rates are simply slashed—without reform—to a rate of growth half as high, we know who is going to pay.

The seniors and working people and employers of this country will pay, that is who. Hospitals and doctors will just shift costs to private insurers. The result will be a massive hidden tax on jobs, a massive hidden tax hike on seniors and workers through hikes in copayments and deductibles.

Cost sharing of the kind Republicans are now contemplating are not just likely to shift costs to the private sector. They are certain to shift costs to the private sector.

It will be an invisible tax on the privately insured.

Some Republicans want to impose this invisible tax to pay for their visible tax cut for the wealthy.

The budget figures and the rate of health care inflation show that Medicare can be preserved without massive cuts of the kind some are considering. They only reason they need to cut \$300 billion from Medicare is because they plan to give away \$354 billion at the same time through a tax cut for the wealthy.

Americans will not be fooled by talk of bipartisan commissions. They will not buy the ruse, where their retired parents' health care is cut way back and their own health care costs are exacerbated to quietly provide tax breaks to the wealthiest people in the country.

If Medicare needs reform, it should be reformed in a way that ensures seniors will get the care they have been promised, and it should be done in the context of health care reform. Medicare should not be cut blindly to achieve false savings—or worse, to fund a tax cut for those who need it least.

The first step in this process must be for the majority to do what they already should have done—propose a budget.

SELLING THE POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS IS BAD POLICY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the administration's proposal to sell three of the Nation's five power marketing administrations includes the Western Area Power Administration, which markets power from the main stem dams on the Missouri River to South Dakota utilities and cooperatives.

As others have indicated, the sale of the power marketing administrations or PMA's would result in an expected one-time savings of \$3.7 billion. However, basing the decision on that fact alone is a case of false economy.

PMA's return far more money to the Federal Government each year than they cost to operate. In 1995, for example, the Western Area Power Administration cost \$225.1 million to operate, but returned \$378.5 million to the Treasury. Other power marketing administrations showed even greater returns. And, beyond that, the sale is likely, ultimately, to increase electricity rates for consumers by up to 300 percent in some areas.

This makes no sense.

Obviously, we need to reduce the budget deficit, and Democrats are ready to do that. But we should not do it indiscriminately. Before we start cutting Government programs, we have a responsibility to evaluate their utility and consider the consequences.

I am concerned that, in proposing this sale, proponents have fallen prey to the allure of short-term savings and missed the larger point that power marketing administrations are good examples of exactly how Government should work.

It has been said that the purpose of Government is to do those things that are essential but which we cannot do as individuals. That is exactly what the power marketing administrations do. They bring affordable electricity to communities that otherwise might not be able to afford it. And they do it cost-effectively.

I have heard the claims that the power marketing administrations can be sold without causing substantial rate increases. Frankly, I'm skeptical of these claims.

In South Dakota, the Western Area Power Administration, or WAPA, markets power from the main stem dams along the Missouri River and has for years ensured a consistent and affordable supply of electricity. The program pays for itself.

If WAPA and the other PMA's are sold, rates are likely to increase substantially. That is because those with the deepest pockets—those in the best position to purchase the assets—will be out-of-State financial interests, whose primary objective will be to maximize their return on investment.

Like any business, the buyers of PMA's will want to maximize their bottom line—profits. And electric rates for existing Federal power customers will rise as a result. Customers in South Dakota and other States now served will pay much higher costs for power, with much of the money going to out-of-State financial interests who bankroll these purchases.

Farming, ranching, and small businesses dominate the prairie economy, providing modest incomes for most South Dakotans. The economic fate of our State or any other should not be placed in the hands of those whose only interest is in making higher profits.

As you would expect, the proposal to sell the power marketing administrations is unpopular in South Dakota and, I believe, in many other States as well.

I have received more than 10,000 letters from people opposed to the sale—and only two letters in favor of it. Ten thousand to two.

I believe that people generally know what is best for themselves. And when they speak this clearly, in such overwhelming numbers, Congress ought to listen.

And let there be no mistake. The sale of the power marketing administrations will have a negative effect far beyond the economy of South Dakota. PMA's sell power in 34 States across

the country. I urge every Member of this body to take a long look at the potential impacts of this sale on customers in his or her State. Read the fine print in this proposal, and I believe you will see the folly in this idea.

In conclusion, Mr. President, PMA's work. Instead of selling them off, we should be holding them up as an example of how the Federal Government can work for the people and the national economy.

PMA's provide affordable power to States like South Dakota without any subsidy. The Federal Government gets a return on its investment. Customers have access to reliable, affordable electricity.

What more can one ask of a program?

Like other States, South Dakota sacrificed great tracts of prime wildlife habitat and farmland so that dams could be constructed. Selling the PMA's now would deprive us of equitable compensation for those sacrifices. Given that, and given the almost certain rate increases that would result from the sale, as well as the likelihood of out-of-State ownership and, thus, the export of State resources, the sale of the PMA's is not a policy that I can support. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this ill-conceived sale.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and, as I understand it, we are now going into recess.

RECESS UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 4, 1995.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., recessed until Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATION

Executive nomination received by the Senate May 3, 1995:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TIMOTHY MICHAEL CARNEY, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 3, 1995:

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION

CHARLES T. MANATT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION UNTIL THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION IN 1997.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.