

that time, Escrow shall return the items and funds deposited by the Tribe to the Tribe as set forth herein.

L. Payment of Fees and Expenses of Escrow

Attached hereto is a schedule of the normal or anticipated fees and expenses which Escrow expects to incur in performing its duties under this escrow. The Tribe approves this schedule, up to a total maximum of \$3,500.00, which sum will not be exceeded without written authorization from the Tribe's Tribal Council, which authorization will not be treated as an amendment to these Instructions. Escrow will deduct all such authorized fees and expenses prior to making the disposition of funds described in section G above.

M. General Provisions

Escrow's printed General Provisions follow the typed section of these Instructions and are incorporated by reference as if set forth in full at this point. In case of any conflict between the General Provisions and these typed Instructions, the typed Instructions will prevail.

Dated: August 6, 1996, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians ("Tribe").

RICHARD M. MILANOVICH,
Chairman.

Breakdown of Holding Escrow for Agua Caliente Band Escrow

Holding fee	\$1,600.00
Postage for appx. 200 checks certified mail	1,000.00
Per check charge at \$2.00 per check appx. 200	400.00

In the event of excessive checks and postage, we will charge as stated above.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, again, I commend my good friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. BONO], the chief sponsor of this legislation, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3804, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous remarks on H.R. 3804, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR STUDY ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING ALASKA NATIVES

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3973) to provide for a study of

the recommendations of the Joint Federal-State Commission on Policies and Programs Affecting Alaska Natives, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3973

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF POLICY.

The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The Joint Federal-State Commission on Policies and Programs Affecting Alaska Natives (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Alaska Natives Commission") was established by Public Law 101-379 (42 U.S.C. 2991a note) following the publication in 1989 of the "Report on the Status of Alaska Natives: A Call for Action" by the Alaska Federation of Natives and after extensive congressional hearings which focused on the need for the first comprehensive assessment of the social, cultural, and economic condition of Alaska's 86,000 Natives since the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 92-203.

(2) The 14 member Alaska Natives Commission held 15 regional hearings throughout Alaska between July 1992 and October 1993, and 2 statewide hearings in Anchorage coinciding with the Conventions of 1992 and 1993 of the Alaska Federation of Natives. In May 1994, the Alaska Natives Commission issued its 3 volume, 440 page report. As required by Public Law 101-379, the report was formally conveyed to the Congress, the President of the United States, and the Governor of Alaska.

(3) The Alaska Natives Commission found that many Alaska Native individuals, families, and communities were experiencing a social, cultural, and economic crisis marked by rampant unemployment, lack of economic opportunity, alcohol abuse, depression, and morbidity and mortality rates that have been described by health care professionals as "staggering".

(4) The Alaska Natives Commission found that due to the high rate of unemployment and lack of economic opportunities for Alaska Natives, government programs for the poor have become the foundation of many village economies. Displacing traditional Alaska Native social safety nets, these well-meaning programs have undermined the healthy interdependence and self-sufficiency of Native tribes and families and have put Native tribes and families at risk of becoming permanent dependencies of Government.

(5) Despite these seemingly insurmountable problems, the Alaska Natives Commission found that Alaska Natives, building on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, had begun a unique process of critical self-examination which, if supported by the United States Congress through innovative legislation, and effective public administration at all levels including traditional native governance, could provide the basis for an Alaska Native social, cultural, economic, and spiritual renewal.

(6) The Alaska Natives Commission recognized that the key to the future well-being of Alaska Natives lay in—

(A) the systematic resumption of responsibility by Alaska Natives for the well-being of their members,

(B) the strengthening of their economies,

(C) the strengthening, operation, and control of their systems of governance, social services, education, health care, and law enforcement, and

(D) exercising rights they have from their special relationship with the Federal Gov-

ernment and as citizens of the United States and Alaska.

(7) The Alaska Natives Commission recognized that the following 3 basic principles must be respected in addressing the myriad of problems facing Alaska Natives:

(A) Self-reliance.

(B) Self-determination.

(C) Integrity of Native cultures.

(8) There is a need to address the problems confronting Alaska Natives. This should be done rapidly, with certainty, and in conformity with the real economic, social, and cultural needs of Alaska Natives.

(9) Congress retains and has exercised its constitutional authority over Native affairs in Alaska subsequent to the Treaty of Cession and does so now through this Act.

SEC. 2. ALASKA NATIVE IMPLEMENTATION STUDY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the Alaska Natives Commission adopted certain recommendations raising important policy questions which are unresolved in Alaska and which require further study and review before Congress considers legislation to implement solutions to address these recommendations; and

(2) the Alaska Federation of Natives is the representative body of statewide Alaska Native interests best suited to further investigate and report to Congress with proposals to implement the recommendations of the Alaska Natives Commission.

(b) GRANT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make a grant to the Alaska Federation of Natives to conduct the study and submit the report required by this section. Such grant may only be made if the Alaska Federation of Natives agrees to abide by the requirements of this section.

(c) STUDY.—Pursuant to subsection (b), the Alaska Federation of Natives shall—

(1) examine the recommendations of the Alaska Natives Commission;

(2) examine initiatives in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere for successful ways that issues similar to the issues addressed by the Alaska Natives Commission have been addressed;

(3) conduct hearings within the Alaska Native community on further ways in which the Commission's recommendations might be implemented; and

(4) recommend enactment of specific provisions of law and other actions the Congress should take to implement such recommendations.

(d) CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL CONTROL.—In developing its recommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(4), the Alaska Federation of Natives shall give specific attention to the ways in which the recommendations may be achieved at the local level with maximum local control of the implementation of the recommendations.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date on which the grant is made under subsection (b), the Alaska Federation of Natives shall submit a report on the study conducted under this section, together with the recommendations developed pursuant to subsection (c)(4), to the President and the Congress and to the Governor and legislature of the State of Alaska. In addition, the Alaska Federation of Natives shall make the report available to Alaska Native villages and organizations and to the general public.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$350,000 for the grant under subsection (b).

(g) ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING.—The Congress encourages the State of Alaska to provide the additional funding necessary for the completion of the study under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG].

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3973 is legislation which I introduced in consultation with the Alaska Federation of Natives. This legislation will authorize a study to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Federal/State Commission on Policies and Programs affecting Alaska Natives and is needed to begin to address the social and economic crisis of Alaska Natives.

The primary focus of the 1992 Commission study was to provide an in-depth analysis, with specific recommendations to Congress, the President of the United States, the Alaska Legislature, the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Native community on the social and economic conditions of Alaska Natives. The Commission completed 2 years of research, public hearings and task force discussion and submitted its report in May of 1994.

The Committee on Resources held a joint oversight hearing in November of 1995 with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to hear testimony on the Alaska Native Commission report dated May 1994 from the Alaska Native Community, the Governor of the State of Alaska and from the administration. Their testimony focused on recommendations provided by the Commission report on how to address the extremely volatile social and economic conditions of Alaska Natives. This legislation is the outcome of the testimony accepted by all entities in the first step of addressing the crisis status of Alaska Natives.

The Administration has verbally stated no opposition to this legislation and has a letter forthcoming.

I urge my colleagues to vote for passage of H.R. 3973.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1400

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this legislation of my colleague from Alaska, the distinguished chairman of the committee and the chief sponsor of this bill.

We share the majority's concern, Mr. Speaker, about the need to do something to improve the economic and social conditions of Alaska Natives. We are proud of the work we have done on a bipartisan basis with the other side in the past. We hope that the chairman and the Alaskan Federation of Natives

will continue to work with us on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we agree with the thrust of the 1994 report on the Joint Federal-State Commission on Policies and Programs Affecting Alaska Natives. Both the Congress and the State must give Alaskan Native tribes greater opportunities for self-governance. One obvious form would be in terms of enhanced governmental powers, some that we have successfully fought for through passage of Self-Determination Act amendments of 1994, and the Self-Governance Act of 1994.

Another obvious form that would be the recognition and protection of Alaskan Native subsistence hunting and fishing rights, including those won recently by Natives in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in the "Katie John" decision, as well as congressional review of whether or not "Indian Country" exists in Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, we are all too aware of the fact that of the more than 200 Alaskan Native villages, two-thirds of them do not have piped water and sewer systems. Even health clinics do not have running water. In the Copper River Basin area, incidences of fetal alcohol syndrome in the late 1980's occurred at the astonishing rate of 350 per 1,000 live births. A recent CDC study shows Alaskan Natives are dying from tobacco-related illnesses at a higher rate than any other group in Alaska. Despite the fact Alaskan Natives have the highest medium income among all Native Americans, more than 25 percent still live below the poverty level.

Mr. Speaker, these statistics are, in a word, heartbreaking. There is no question we take our commitment to improving the lives of Native Americans seriously. We intend to do something about these conditions. We simply believe we can do something more quickly if we can work together as we have tried and are doing so on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3973, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their re-

marks and to include extraneous materials on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

HELIUM PRIVATIZATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4168) to amend the Helium Act to authorize the Secretary to enter into agreements with private parties for the recovery and disposal of helium on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4168

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Helium Privatization Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF HELIUM ACT.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167 to 167n).

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.

Sections 3, 4, and 5 are amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.

"(a) EXTRACTION AND DISPOSAL OF HELIUM ON FEDERAL LANDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into agreements with private parties for the recovery and disposal of helium on Federal lands upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems fair, reasonable, and necessary.

"(2) LEASEHOLD RIGHTS.—The Secretary may grant leasehold rights to any such helium.

"(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not enter into any agreement by which the Secretary sells such helium other than to a private party with whom the Secretary has an agreement for recovery and disposal of helium.

"(4) REGULATIONS.—Agreements under paragraph (1) may be subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

"(5) EXISTING RIGHTS.—An agreement under paragraph (1) shall be subject to any rights of any affected Federal oil and gas lessee that may be in existence prior to the date of the agreement.

"(6) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An agreement under paragraph (1) (and any extension or renewal of an agreement) shall contain such terms and conditions as the Secretary may consider appropriate.

"(7) PRIOR AGREEMENTS.—This subsection shall not in any manner affect or diminish the rights and obligations of the Secretary and private parties under agreements to dispose of helium produced from Federal lands in existence on the date of enactment of the Helium Privatization Act of 1996 except to the extent that such agreements are renewed or extended after that date.

"(b) STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, AND SALE.—The Secretary may store, transport, and sell helium only in accordance with this Act.