

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Veterans Home Loan Program Amendments of 1992 (Public Law 102-547; 106 Stat. 3633) is amended by striking out sections 2(c), 3(b), 8(d), 9(c), and 10(b).

SEC. 202. OTHER REPORT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress, not later than March 1, 1997, a report on the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating into one program the following three programs:

(1) The alcohol and drug abuse contract care program under section 1720A of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The program to provide community-based residential care to homeless chronically mentally ill veterans under section 115 of the Veterans' Benefits and Services Act of 1988 (38 U.S.C. 1712 note).

(3) The demonstration program under section 7 of Public Law 102-54 (38 U.S.C. 1718 note).

(b) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall submit to Congress, not later than March 31, 1997, a report setting forth the results of a study evaluating the operation of the health professional scholarship program under subchapter II of chapter 76 of title 38, United States Code. The study shall evaluate the efficacy of the program with respect to recruitment and retention of health care personnel for the Department of Veterans Affairs and shall compare the costs and benefits of the program with the costs and benefits of alternative methods of ensuring adequate recruitment and retention of such personnel.

(2) The Secretary shall carry out the study under this paragraph through a private contractor. The report under paragraph (1) shall include the report of the contractor and the comments, if any, of the Secretary on that report.

(c) ENHANCED USE LEASES.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress, not later than March 31, 1997, a report evaluating the operation of the program under subchapter V of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 203. CONTRACTS FOR UTILITIES, AUDIE L. MURPHY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

(a) AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into contracts for the provision of utilities (including steam and chilled water) to the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. Each such contract may—

(1) be for a period not to exceed 35 years;

(2) provide for the construction and operation of a production facility on or near property under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;

(3) require capital contributions by the parties involved for the construction of such a facility, such contribution to be in the form of cash, equipment, or other in-kind contribution; and

(4) provide for a predetermined formula to compute the cost of providing such utilities to the parties for the duration of the contract.

(b) FUNDS.—A contract may be entered into under subsection (a) only to the extent as provided for in advance in appropriations Acts.

(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS.—The Secretary may include in a contract under subsection (a) such additional provisions as the Secretary considers necessary to secure the provision of utilities and to protect the interests of the United States.

In lieu of the Senate amendment to the title of the bill, amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out

certain programs and activities, to require certain reports from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

Mr. STUMP (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not plan to object, and I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] for an explanation of his request.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in 1995 the House passed H.R. 1536, H.R. 1575, H.R. 2289, and H.R. 2353. These bills extended a variety of VA authority for veterans health care and benefits. The other body combined the provisions of these 4 bills and substituted them in the bill S. 991 as an amendment to H.R. 2353 on January 5, 1996.

We now have been able to work out these compromises on those expiring authorities. This agreement is reflected in the amendments we are asking unanimous consent for now.

The amendment also authorized utility contracts for the Audie L. Murphy Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Chairman SIMPSON has given his commitment to address the remaining unresolved issues during the second session of the Congress.

We are seeking unanimous consent now because these must be enacted quickly. We hope the Senate will act on it tomorrow so that the expiration of these authorities will not adversely impact veterans depending on the VA for benefits and services. I hope all Members will support this amendment.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2353, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take one moment and thank my colleague and the ranking member on the other side, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY], for his help in finalizing these bills.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I will be brief.

As the distinguished chairman has indicated, this bill was actually necessary. It was not passed in the first session, it was sent to the Senate. They did not act on it. This will help the veterans to be able to do some wonderful things.

Mr. Speaker, with that brief explanation, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 308 of Public Law 97-449 (49 U.S.C. 308(a)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Transportation, which covers fiscal year 1994.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 25, 1996.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MONTGOMERY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

BALANCING THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GREENWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, tonight I had longstanding plans to be with a very special group of my constituents from Bucks and Montgomery Counties. I was very much looking forward to being there. But tonight's business was far too important to miss.

What we have done tonight is literally make a down payment on balancing America's budget, a project that this side of the aisle has worked on very hard for all of this year. We have not met our commitments. We have not reached the accord that we had hoped to reach with the White House. But what we have done tonight in a bipartisan fashion, with the agreement of the President, is to agree to agree on those things where we do not have a difference of opinion, and we have done that. But our work is still cut out for us.

Mr. Speaker, we must reach accord, we must compromise, we must find a way to reform our entitlements, to reform our Medicare system, to save it

from the disastrous bankruptcy to which it is headed. We must transform our welfare system into one that offers not a handout, but a hand up. We must reform our Medicaid system, which is creating financial havoc for all of the States.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we can do this. But it will take a spirit of compromise, the same bipartisan spirit that we evidenced tonight on the floor, Republicans and Democrats working, the Congress and the President, getting beyond their differences and becoming less entrenched and working in the spirit of compromise. I believe the American people expect that from us. I believe the American people deserve that, and I believe for our children's future we must do that.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I will not use the 5 minutes, but an important event has happened in our district. When the results were in on the citizens referendum to incorporate Fort Myers Beach into a town, a resident remarked "This is the will of the people. This is democracy in action."

I rise today to salute the new municipality in my district in Florida, to commend the citizens on both sides of the incorporation debate for their sincere interest in bettering their community and to wish the newly elected town council well in its endeavor.

It was more than 20 years ago that my own community of Sanibel, FL, took the same important step into home rule. We felt then, as a majority of Fort Myers Beach residents feel now, that home rule would give residents greater access to and control over the governance of their community. I was proud to have been involved in Sanibel's efforts of democracy in action, and I am proud today of the newest municipality in my congressional district. Fort Myers Beach has always had a distinctive character and charm. Even though we have many beautiful beaches in Lee County, FL, when somebody refers to "the beach" down our way they usually mean Fort Myers beach. That unique personality will no doubt flourish as the town of Fort Myers Beach sets out on the course to take charge of its own destiny.

I know others in Congress join me in offering a warm greeting to southwest Florida's newest town. Welcome to the town of Fort Myers Beach.

FRENCH NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, it's me again. At times I feel like I'm

out there in the wilderness talking to the birds and the trees—as I have imagined several times that I'm standing on a beautiful sandy beach along any one of those South Pacific islands, taking a long deep breath of that warm salt air, as I observe one of the great wonders of nature—the powerful waves of the ocean pounding the shore.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have counted at least 20 times I've taken an important matter before my colleagues and to the American people—the matter of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific and specifically in French Polynesia.

Mr. Speaker, in June of last year, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 80, that has numerous cosponsors from both sides of the aisle—including, Mr. GILMAN from New York, Mr. HAMILTON from Indiana, Mr. LEACH from Iowa, Mr. BEREUTER from Nebraska, Mr. BERMAN from California, Mr. SMITH from New Jersey, Mr. LANTOS from California, Mr. ROHRBACHER from California, Mr. ACKERMAN from New York, Mr. KIM from California, Mr. UNDERWOOD from the Territory of Guam, Mrs. MINK from Hawaii, Mr. ABERCROMBIE also from Hawaii, Mr. MARKEY from Massachusetts, Mr. DEFAZIO from Oregon, and Mr. MINETA from California.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 80 expresses the sense of the Congress of the United States to recognize the concerns of the peoples of Oceania and to call upon France to stop nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the substantive issues and concerns raised in this resolution, which delineates the environmental risks that France's testing has created for the 28 million men, women and children who live throughout the Pacific region, which is comprised of 22 sovereign nations and territories. The resolution further calls upon the Government of France, namely President Chirac and his administration, to cease all nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

House Concurrent Resolution 80 holds that:

The Government of France has been conducting nuclear tests over 10,000 miles from Paris on the South Pacific atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa in French Polynesia;

That since 1966 France has detonated at least 187 nuclear explosions above, on, and under these coral atolls in French Polynesia, including more than 140 underground nuclear tests;

That there is considerable concern among the 28,000,000 people of the 22 countries and territories of Oceania regarding the adverse environmental effects in the region as a result of these nuclear tests;

That the island nations of the South Pacific forum have staunchly opposed France's nuclear testing in the region, applauded France's adherence to a global nuclear testing moratorium since 1992, and strongly deplore and

condemn any decision to resume France's nuclear testing in the South Pacific;

That despite France's claim that its nuclear testing program is absolutely safe, there is scientific evidence to suggest both that radioactive leakage has already occurred at the testing site and that additional, more serious leakage might occur in the next 10 to 100 years;

That there is also concern in the region that the coral atoll, Moruroa, has been subjected to premature and accelerated aging as a result of the testing program, risking the structural integrity of the atoll and increasing the possibility of its disintegration;

That the leaders of France's insular territory, French Polynesia, have stated opposition to resumed nuclear testing, joining fellow Pacific Island governments, and it is inherently unfair that they should be used as a test site for France's nuclear explosions;

Therefore, the Congress of the United States should recognize the concerns of the 28,000,000 people from nations and territories of Oceania and call upon the Government of France to cease all nuclear testing at the Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls.

Mr. Speaker, after voice votes of both the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Asia-Pacific and the full Committee on International Relations—the committees unanimously approved the concurrent resolution and forwarded it for floor action. But for some unknown reason, Mr. Speaker, the concurrent resolution is being shuffled somewhere between offices and the floor of the House, and for that unknown reason, this important matter has conveniently been put on hold indefinitely. As a bipartisan measure that has been described as moderate and well balanced, it is shameful that the Republican leadership has chosen deliberately not to bring House Concurrent Resolution 80 to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to share with our colleagues some basic statistical data concerning nuclear testing not only in our country but other countries as well. I honestly believe there is a need for our policymakers and members of the nuclear club—the United States, Great Britain, France, Russia, and the Peoples Republic of China—to thoroughly re-examine the so-called merits—and the dark side—of having nuclear warheads as a deterrent against enemy aggression.

Mr. Speaker, according to the bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the U.S. nuclear weapons program from 1940 to 1995 in constant U.S. dollars—is estimated to have cost America \$4 trillion. Let me repeat, Mr. Speaker—\$4 trillion. A \$4 trillion stack of 1 dollar bills would reach the Moon, encircle it, and start part way back. Four trillion dollar bills could paper over every State east of the Mississippi, with enough left over to blanket Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and most of Iowa.

And, Mr. Speaker, the \$4 trillion figure does not even include additional