

extend the authorization for the Medicare/Medicaid Demonstration Program. This program allows four tribal health contract operators to directly bill and collect Medicare/Medicaid payments rather than operate through the current system of channeling payments through the IHS. The four participating Indian tribes include Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation of Alaska, Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma and South East Alaska Regional Health Consortium. The Medicare/Medicaid Demonstration Program has been a highly successful program for the participating tribes and the IHS, who have reported significantly increased collections for Medicare/Medicaid services and greater efficiency in the billing/payments process.

In an interim report on this program, Secretary Shalala of the Department of Health and Human Services describes the remarkable increase in Medicare and Medicaid collections by tribal health providers achieved through this program. For example, through the demonstration program, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has doubled its Medicare and Medicaid collections, which has led to further improvements to the overall quality of health care provided to its members. The Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation of Alaska has been able to expand its health care, disease prevention and health education services to an additional 32 villages in Alaska. The Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation reported a 600 percent increase in Medicaid collections during the first 2 years of the pilot project. This funding increase has allowed the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation to upgrade its health care facilities and achieve "Accreditation with Commendation" from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Unless this program is reauthorized, these tribal health facilities will be forced to return to the IHS-managed collection system and forego much of the progress that has been achieved. Based on the record of success of this program, I am pleased that my colleagues support the extension of this program for 2 years.

Mr. President, the changes I am proposing in this substitute amendment will bring us closer to meeting the goals of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to raise the health status of Indian people and to ensure the continuation of several important Indian health care programs. The changes I have proposed in the substitute amendment have been cleared by the respective Committees of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives. I thank my colleagues for their support in passing this important legislation.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the bill be deemed read for a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any state-

ments relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5392) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 3378), as amended, was agreed to.

INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate turn to immediate consideration of Calendar No. 573, H.R. 3068.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3068) to accept the request of the Prairie Island Indian Community to revoke their charter of incorporation issued under the Indian Reorganization Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. REVOCATION OF CHARTER OF INCORPORATION OF THE PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY UNDER THE INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT.

(a) ACCEPTANCE OF REQUEST TO REVOKE CHARTER.—The request of the Prairie Island Indian Community to surrender the charter of incorporation issued to that community on July 23, 1937, pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934, commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act" (48 Stat. 988, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 477) is hereby accepted.

(b) REVOCATION OF CHARTER.—The charter of incorporation referred to in subsection (a) is hereby revoked.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE JICARILLA APACHE TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT.

Section 8(e)(3) The Jicarilla Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act (106 Stat. 2241) is amended by striking "December 31, 1996" and inserting "December 31, 1998".

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1992.

Section 3711(b)(1) of the San Carlos Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4752) is amended by striking "December 31, 1996" and inserting "June 30, 1997".

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3068 and to urge its passage by the Senate.

The primary purpose of this legislation is to accept the request of the Prairie Island Indian Community of Minnesota to revoke the Federal charter of incorporation issued to the Community pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

The Prairie Island Indian Community is organized under a Constitution and Bylaws adopted by the Community in 1936 pursuant to section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. 476). Article V of the Prairie Island Constitution, which enumerates the powers of the Community's Coun-

cil, includes a provision that allows the Council to manage economic affairs and enterprises in accordance with the terms of a charter which may be issued to the Community by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act. In 1937, the Secretary issued such a Federal charter to the Community.

For 60 years, the Prairie Island Community has relied upon the authorities of its Constitution and Bylaws for the operation of its government and for the operation of its business enterprises. Article V of the Constitution specifically provides authority for the Community to regulate the conduct of trade and the use and disposal of property on the reservation, as well as to charter subordinate organizations for economic purposes and to regulate the activities of such organizations.

The Community has come to view the 1937 charter, which hasn't been amended since it was issued, as outdated, cumbersome, and unnecessary to their efforts to operate successful business enterprises and become economically self-sufficient. Some charter provisions, such as one that precludes the Community from contracting for amounts in excess of \$100 without approval by the Secretary of the Interior, are seen as particularly paternalistic and inappropriate for effective management of tribal resources. Accordingly, the Community has requested that the charter be revoked.

H.R. 3068 accepts the request of the Prairie Island Indian Community that its Federal charter of incorporation be revoked and declares the charter to be revoked. Legislation is needed because Amendment 10 of the charter states that the charter can be revoked only by an Act of Congress.

The Committee on Indian Affairs adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3068 that retains the unamended text of H.R. 3068, as passed by the House of Representatives, and adds two new sections that extend the deadlines for completion of two Indian water rights settlements enacted by the Congress in 1992.

The first new section extends until December 31, 1998, the deadline for completion of all requirements necessary to effect the Jicarilla Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 1992. The availability to the Tribe of settlement funds and water from two Federal water projects in New Mexico is contingent upon dismissal of actions by the Tribe against the United States in Federal courts and a waiver of the Tribe's reserved water rights claims in general stream adjudications in state courts involving claims to the waters of the San Juan River and its tributaries and the Rio Chama and its tributaries. The 1992 Act requires partial final decrees agreed to by the United States, the Tribe, and the State of New Mexico to be entered into by December 31, 1996. However, this deadline cannot be met, due primarily to unforeseen delays in the necessary state court proceedings to consider the settlement.

Accordingly, the Tribe, the State of New Mexico, and the Administration support an extension of the 1992 Act's deadline in order to preserve the benefits of the settlement to all parties.

The second new section extends until June 30, 1997, the deadline for completion of all requirements necessary to effect the San Carlos Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 1992. This extension is intended to provide the Tribe and the Phelps Dodge Corporation, and the Tribe and the city of Globe, Arizona, additional time to reach bilateral agreements that would be included as part of the overall Settlement Agreement that the Congress ratified in the 1992 Act. The relatively short time period is intended to ensure that the parties remain diligent in pursuing a final resolution of the issues between them. The Tribe, Phelps Dodge, Globe, and all other parties to the settlement, including the Administration, support this extension. The Committee recognizes that, in the event agreements are reached within the time provided by the amendment, an additional extension of time will be needed for the Arizona courts to consider the settlement in the context of the ongoing general stream adjudication of the waters of the Gila River basin.

Mr. President, by accepting the request of the Prairie Island Indian Community regarding its charter, H.R. 3068 demonstrates the Congress' respect for tribal self-government and tribal sovereignty. The amendments to the bill that provide extensions of time for completing two complex water settlements already approved and funded by Congress must be enacted if we are to preserve the benefits of those settlements for all parties involved, including the United States.

Mr. President, H.R. 3068 is extremely important legislation that is without controversy or opposition. The Congressional Budget Office reports that enactment of the bill will not effect direct spending nor create any pay-as-you-go problems. Accordingly, I strongly urge the Senate to pass H.R. 3068 and send it to the President.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the committee amendment be agreed to, the bill be deemed read for a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table and any statements relating to the bill be placed at an appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 3068), as amended, was deemed read for a third time and passed.

WITNESS RETALIATION, WITNESS TAMPERING AND JURY TAMPERING AMENDMENTS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now

proceed to the consideration of Calendar 430, H.R. 3120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3120) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to witness retaliation, witness tampering and jury tampering.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read for a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3120) was deemed read for a third time and passed.

CRAWFORD NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged of H.R. 3287, and further that the Senate proceed now to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3287) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Crawford National Fish Hatchery to the city of Crawford, Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed at this point in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3287) was deemed read for a third time and passed.

CARBON HILL NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar 462, H.R. 2982.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2982) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Carbon Hill National Fish Hatchery to the State of Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read for a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

The bill (H.R. 2982) was deemed read for a third time and passed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES— H.R. 3539

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the order of the Senate on September 18, 1996, the Chair appoints the following conferees to H.R. 3539.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. FORD conferees on the part of the Senate.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1996

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 20; further, that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and the Senate immediately resume consideration of H.R. 1350, the pending legislation, the maritime bill.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the time between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. be equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the motion to table the Grassley amendment to occur at 10 a.m.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., the Senate will vote on or in relation to the Grassley amendment to the maritime bill. Other rollcall votes are possible on the remaining amendments to the maritime bill. It is hoped that a unanimous-consent agreement regarding the maritime bill can be reached tomorrow morning which would allow Members to know the voting schedule for the remainder of Friday's session. The Senate may also be asked to turn to consideration of any other items cleared for action.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment, in accordance with the previous order, following the remarks of Senator GRASSLEY.