

its vital role in bringing peace to this war-torn land. It is in America's interest that ECOMOG succeed and that we broaden the number of African states participating in the regional effort. In April, President Clinton committed \$30 million in aid to the ECOMOG forces, and I am pleased that the full amount has been authorized to be transmitted. I urge that the funds be disbursed as quickly as possible to provide assistance in the vital areas of need identified by ECOMOG, such as communications and transportation.

Long-term security will require more than a regional peace force—it will require a reestablishment of order in Liberian society itself. Short-term relief requires local order as well. Although the UNDP is currently rehabilitating the airport in Monrovia, and the World Food Program is meeting urgent humanitarian needs in areas severely affected by the fighting, most NGO's and private volunteer organizations are still reluctant to return until the security and political situation in Liberia is stabilized. The reestablishment of law and order in Liberia is a critical requirement for these organizations to function and meet pressing economic and humanitarian needs. Sooner or later, we will need to support efforts to reconstitute Liberian security and judicial institutions.

The second requirement for a lasting peace is the existence of basic economic opportunity. If peace is to endure, America's role cannot end with a cease-fire and an election. Faction fighters will not permanently lay down their arms unless they have something else to do and other means of sustenance.

In this area, Liberia's tragedy may provide its own opportunity. For example, Liberia desperately needs the reconstitution of its roads, bridges, airport, and water and electrical power systems. These are vital areas in which former belligerents can be employed, exchanging swords for plowshares, and contributing to the rebuilding of their country. Schools also must be reconstituted so the youngest fighters of ages 9 and 10 can replace their guns with books and return from the battlefields to the classrooms.

Mr. President, there are compelling reasons for America to remain engaged in Liberia. We share a special history. We also have an interest in eliminating the type of instability that can be a haven for threats that cut across national boundaries—environmental degradation, infectious diseases, and international crime, terrorism, and drug trafficking.

Elections alone cannot save Liberia. I trust the administration's diplomacy, with the oversight of Congress, will continue to take that fact into account as we try to make peace work in Liberia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2161

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). The clerk will read S. 2161 for a second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2161) reauthorizing programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. S. 2161 will be placed on the Calendar.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDIO OMNIBUS PARKS BILL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor this afternoon to update my colleagues and those who are following this issue, to update you all on our efforts to pass an omnibus parks bill for this Nation. My report has both disappointment and hope. I want to explain why.

We have been working nonstop to try to get an agreement from every single Member of this U.S. Senate to accept the House-passed omnibus parks bill called the Presidio parks bill, so that we can quickly act and send this bill to the President's desk.

It is important to note that the omnibus parks bill in the House, Presidio bill, passed with only four dissenting votes. So there was near unanimity over on the House side for this bill, which is very far-reaching, very important for American people, very bipartisan and has been agreed to by the administration.

So here we have an extraordinary opportunity, Mr. President, to end this session on a high note, to pass the bill that passed in the House in a bipartisan way, to pass a bill here that has bipartisan support, send it to the President, and all of us can go home feeling very good that we did something for this country's environment and that we did it in a bipartisan fashion.

So why is my report filled with some disappointment? First of all, I was very disappointed that the majority leader, who is working hard to build a consensus for this bill—there is no question Senator DASCHLE and Senator LOTT are working hard to build a consensus for this bill—but the majority leader, Senator LOTT, has the ability to bring this bill up before this body right now. He could have done it yesterday. Had he made that decision to bring this bill to the floor, we could have started the process, just as we have on the FAA bill, to vote on this bill.

The rules of the Senate can sometimes be confusing. I have had many people call and say, "Well, don't you have 60 votes in favor of the parks bill?" I said, probably more like 85 votes, maybe 90 votes, but we cannot get a cloture motion filed until the majority leader decides to call the bill up. He has not done so to date.

He says he prefers to have every single Senator agree. Of course, Mr. President, that would be a wonderful thing if every single Senator would agree with this bill. Then we could get it done without a recorded vote, without the necessity of filing cloture. But surely it seems to me we would have a better way to make this bill the law of the land if that bill was to be pending and a cloture motion pending. I think that would bring people to the table in a faster manner, and if we were not able to achieve unanimity, we could then go to the cloture route.

So I am very disappointed that to date the majority leader has not chosen to bring the parks bill before the U.S. Senate. I urge him to do that right now. We are going to be here. We should be here doing our work. We all want to resolve the FAA dispute, and we will. We surely ought to want to work on this parks bill. I hope that the majority leader will bring that bill before us.

Every single Democrat has told me that he or she is very much for this bill. The vast majority of Republicans have said the same. So all we need to do is have the bill brought before us, and if someone did filibuster it, we could bring the debate to a close with 60 votes and get on with it, and, as I say, I believe the vote would be overwhelmingly in favor of this bill.

Mr. President, I want to explain why this bill is so important.

No. 1, it includes parks for 41 States. Forty-one States in the Nation will benefit from this parks bill, which has required 2 years of effort, Mr. President, to put together, 2 years of effort to put together this Presidio omnibus parks bill. We could see this chance evaporate. I hope we do not. I hope everyone will agree. I surely will be on my feet until the waning hours of this session, if need be, proposing that we pass this House bill unanimously.

What States are covered? Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

As you go into the bill and you read the various titles, you see, Mr. President, that in many States there is more than one important parks project.

Mr. President, every one of these States is counting on us. I am very, very hopeful—very hopeful—that we can resolve our differences. I for one have been doing whatever I could do to talk to individual Senators.

There are some Senators who have disappointments that they did not get everything they wanted in this bill. I understand that. You know, the Presidio, for example, which is so important to us; we had to compromise on

that legislation, Congresswoman PELOSI and I and Senator FEINSTEIN and Congressman MILLER. I want to thank all of them for everything they are continuing to do as we speak to make this work. I had a conversation with Congressman MILLER. I have been talking to Senator MURKOWSKI and his staff. We are trying to make this happen.

In Alabama we have the Selma to Montgomery Historic Trail designation.

In Alaska there are many, many important provisions, ranging from Alaska Peninsula land exchange to Federal borough recognition, regulation of Alaska fishing, and University of Alaska.

In my State of California, Senator FEINSTEIN and I are so strongly in favor of this bill, not only because of what it will do for the rest of the country, but surely for our State. It includes setting up a trust, a nonprofit trust at the Presidio to make sure that, as this magnificent park takes shape from a historic military base that started so many years ago before California was a State—we need this trust to make the important decisions about the reuse of the various buildings and doing it in the right way and doing it in the environmentally sound way.

We have in that bill San Francisco Bay enhancement, Butte County conveyance, Modoc Forest boundary adjustment, Cleveland National Forest, Lagomarsino Visitor Center, Merced irrigation district land exchange, the Manzanar historic site exchange.

I see my friend from Illinois is here. The Manzanar Historic Site, we know this is where, during a very dark period of our country, Japanese Americans were held literally as prisoners in their own country. Manzanar is a historic site. In this bill it will be preserved. Very important.

The AIDS memorial grove, timber sale exchange, Santa Cruz Poland acquisition, Stanislaus Forest management, Del Norte School conveyance.

It goes on in Colorado, in Florida, in Georgia, in Hawaii.

I just want to mention one other very important—very important—issue. I see my friend from Alaska has come to the floor. How many times he has been to San Francisco to pledge to work to make this happen.

I know that the Sterling Forest in New Jersey is so very important to both Senators from New Jersey and to the entire bipartisan congressional delegation over in the House. We have Senator BRADLEY leaving after a distinguished career. I know he is working with Senator MURKOWSKI to try to resolve all of our problems that we have. Sterling Forest is the largest unbroken, undeveloped track of forest land still remaining along the New York-New Jersey border. The bill will allow an appropriation of up to \$17.5 million for land acquisition. It designates the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, a Federal commission to manage this land. It goes on.

Most importantly for New Jersey are the billions of gallons of fresh clean drinking water that flow from the boundaries here.

When you look at the development that is possible for Sterling Forest, 14,000 homes, 8 million square feet of commercial space, even if the development were concentrated in the least environmentally critical and successful tracks, the construction will, according to Republicans and Democrats who support this acquisition, will irrevocably alter this land.

As I said when I took to the floor, I am mixed with disappointment and optimism. Clearly, I reiterate, not every single thing is in here that Senators feel ought to be in here. I so well understand it. I am working to see if there are ways to get those things done. I am looking forward to the remarks of my colleague from Nebraska who may be here on this topic. I hope that we are moving closer.

I can assure the Senator that if we can get this done, I will work with him to do everything I can in the next Congress to move forward to address some of the concerns that he has raised. I have tried to do that, talking with the administration, as late as very late last night.

I hope when I come back to the floor I can speak more with hope and speak with more belief that we will, in fact, get this done.

I yield the floor.

GRATITUDE TO SENATE STAFF

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I am grateful to my colleagues who have been so good to me in my years in Congress, but let me also express my gratitude to a lot of others who are not as visible: The pages who serve us so effectively; the people in front, including Bill Lackey, Bob Dove, Scott Bates, all the people who work with us at the front desk; the court reporters, including the distinguished reporter from Menard County, IL; the people in the cloakroom, and the officers.

I rise today specifically because I just learned yesterday that Ed Litton, who has been an officer in the Dirksen Building through the years and has been marvelous to me and to the other Senators, but, equally important, and this is true for all the people around here, they are good to the public, and I think make a great impression for American Government.

Ed Litton is going to retire October 30. He is going to beat me into retirement. He has just been superb. He is good to people, and I think typifies the police officers in the Capitol area. They have really contributed immensely.

I just wish Ed Litton and his family the very best on his retirement. He can look back on his years of service with a great deal of satisfaction.

As I leave the Senate, I leave with a great sense of gratitude to all the people who have served us so well, most of

whom I regret to say I probably have not thanked as I should.

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

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

ALASKA SUBSISTENCE HUNTING AND FISHING ACT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise this morning for the purpose of speaking on legislation I introduced yesterday. This legislation is very important to my State of Alaska. The intention of the legislation is to try and address some of the issues regarding subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska. I am under no false hope that at this late date this legislation will move through the Senate this year, but I want it to appear in the RECORD for the purposes of starting a dialog in our State and starting a dialog with the various Federal agencies involved.

Mr. President, the issue of subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska has caused a great deal of divisiveness in our State and has led to the State of Alaska becoming the only State in the Union which no longer retains the sole control of its fish and game resources on public lands. This is an extraordinary departure from the norm, but nevertheless it is a reality. The influence of the Federal Government over fish and wildlife resources in Alaska continues to grow and expand with each passing month.

This legislation calls for the Presidential appointment of a special master to come up with nonbinding recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Governor of the State of Alaska, the State of Alaska legislature and to the Congress, as well. The recommendation will be on how to return management of fish and game resources to the State and how best to provide for the continuation of a subsistence lifestyle for Alaska's residence.

I hope to have significant discussions with the people of Alaska on this issue in the coming months during the recess and be prepared to move forward with the 105th Congress when we return in January. It would be my intention to introduce more definitive legislation on the subsistence issue at that time.

What we are attempting to do is set, if you will, a skeleton schedule in place so we can build on it by generating public input.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill, S. 2172, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: