

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will conduct a business meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 1996, to mark up the committee's letter to the Senate Committee on the Budget containing the committee's budget views and estimates on the President's budget request for fiscal year 1997 for Indian programs. The business meeting-markup will be held at 9 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 224-2251.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 25, 1996 on S. 1264, a bill to provide certain benefits of the Missouri River Basin Pick-Sloan Project to the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and for other purposes. The hearing will be held at 9 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 1996, in open session, to receive testimony on the Department of Energy's atomic energy defense activities and the fiscal year 1997 budget request and Future Years Defense Program.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet during the Tuesday, April 16, 1996 session of the Senate for the purpose of conducting a hearing on the Reauthorization of the National Transportation Safety Board and the Pipeline Safety Act.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy Research and Development of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 16, 1996, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to consider S. 1646, a bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance safety, training; research and development,

and safety education in the propane gas industry for the benefit of propane consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 16, 1996, at 10 a.m.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FEDERAL-TRIBAL NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to inform my colleagues that later today I will ask their unanimous consent to hold at the desk and pass H.R. 3034, a measure that was passed by the House by consent. H.R. 3034 is identical to S. 1608, a measure I and Senator INOUE introduced on March 12, 1996. S. 1608 was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, which I chair.

My full statement explaining the bill appeared at page S1867 of the March 12 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. While I regret that it is necessary, I support the 60-day extension of authority to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations implementing the Indian Self-Determination Contract Reform Act of 1994 under negotiated rulemaking procedures.

In the 1994 act, the Congress required the administration to involve the Indian tribes, under negotiated rulemaking procedures, in the development of these regulations within an 18-month period that expires on April 25, 1996. The pending bill would extend that period to June 25, 1996.

Many of the Indian tribes who have been involved in the negotiated rulemaking process have sought the extension in order to provide them adequate time to respond to the public comment received from the draft regulations published on January 24, 1996. The administration has joined them in requesting a 2-month extension to the 18-month period provided by the statute to promulgate regulations. Their request is worthy of support and I urge my colleagues to consent to its passage. •

CONGRATULATIONS CORNHUSKERS BASKETBALL

• Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to congratulate the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers Men's Basketball Team on their thrilling championship victory over St. Joseph's of Pennsylvania, 60 to 56, in the National Invitational Tournament, the

Nation's oldest postseason tournament, at Madison Square Garden on March 28. With their victory, the men's basketball team joins an impressive list of championship seasons this school year for UNL that already includes national champions in football and women's volleyball.

Coach Danny Nee and his players overcame considerable adversity this season, having entered the NIT with 10 losses in their last 11 games. But they defeated Colorado State, Washington State, Fresno State, and Tulane in route to the NIT final, and finished what could have been a disappointing season on a very successful note.

Mr. President, this is UNL's first ever basketball championship and although some may consider the NIT a second-tier tournament, only two teams in men's NCAA Division One basketball can end their season on a winning note. And I am proud to say, one of them this year is my Alma Mater—the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Congratulations to Coach Nee, senior guard and NIT MVP Erick Strickland, and the entire Cornhusker men's basketball team on a successful season and a terrific victory. Nebraska is, indeed, proud. •

CRUMBS FOR THE MAJORITY

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I felt like starting these observations by saying three cheers for Mort Zuckerman.

Recently, Mortimer B. Zuckerman, editor-in-chief of U.S. News & World Report, had a superb column called "Crumbs for the Majority", which I ask to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD after my remarks.

He talks about our income disparity, our growing problems with poverty, and the need to do something about it.

He advocates a grant program similar to the old GI bill after World War II.

It is interesting that if you were to add an inflation factor to the average grant made under the GI bill after World War II, it today would average \$9,400 a year. The most anyone can receive today in a grant from the Federal Government is \$2,400, and you have to meet strict standards of poverty to receive that.

Even for a modest program like the Direct Loan Program, we have to struggle to see it survive.

If you were to combine the kind of suggestion that Mort Zuckerman has with a WPA type of program that would say to people: You can stay on welfare 5 weeks, but after that you have to work 4 days a week at minimum wage, as in the old WPA, and the fifth day you should be out trying to find a job in the private sector, we would put to work hundreds of thousands—probably millions—of Americans who are now left out of our process and who can be made productive. The demand for unskilled labor is going down and to talk about welfare

reform without talking about creating jobs for people of limited skills is public relations and nothing more.

Such a WPA program should tie in with the education recommendation of Mort Zuckerman. People who come into the program should be screened, and if they can't read and write, we should get them into the program. We have 23 million Americans who cannot fill out an employment form and who cannot read the newspaper. That is a huge drag on our productive capacity.

Those who come into the WPA type of program who have a remarkable skill should be given an opportunity to enhance that skill, whether through an apprentice program or a technical school or community college.

Mort Zuckerman ends his column by saying "but it is hope that will sustain and enrich us." He is correct.

The great division in our society is not between black and white or Hispanic and Anglo or many of the other divisions that people talk about. It is between those who have hope and those who have given up. We need programs that give people the spark of hope.

We have shown very little creativity in dealing with the problems of poverty in our Nation. We have been pandering to those who make the big campaign contributions and who are politically articulate.

It is about time we pay attention to those who make no campaign contributions and who are getting more and more disillusioned with our Government.

The editorial follows:

[From U.S. News & World Report, Feb. 26, 1996]

CRUMBS FOR THE MAJORITY

(By Mortimer B. Zuckerman)

The stock market is up over a trillion dollars in the past 14 months. The United States is five years into an economic recovery. But the opinion polls reveal the public to be in a foul mood and pessimistic about the future. What is going on?

The cake has gotten bigger, but it is not being shared equitably. The technological and educated aristocracy, and the owners of financial assets, are sharing the cream with a highly skilled and well-educated minority, a little more than a third of the work force, who have full-time, full-benefits jobs. But there are only crumbs for the majority of the population who lack a college education or specialized skills. Incomes have been falling or stagnating as this group has remained mired for more than 20 years in what has been called "the silent depression." As social analyst Daniel Yankelovich points out, we are in the midst of the erosion of one of the greatest achievements of the post-World War II era, in which not only people with a college degree could make a good living but also people without one. This gave us a middle class and a prosperous country with a sense of fairness and hope.

That optimism and faith in America have been eroded. Too many Americans cannot afford health insurance; too many can barely save; too many cannot afford to send their children to college; and as 1995's Christmas sales indicate, too many cannot afford gift buying. Both spouses have to work, and the one-earner, middle-class family is becoming extinct. Parents are now spending about 40 percent less time with their children than

they did 30 years ago. To support the children who need ever more costly education for ever longer periods of time, parents have to be willing to make larger and larger sacrifices. What's more, too many men are bailing out of these obligations.

This erosion of family life has led to a widespread sense of moral confusion and a breakdown in the shared norms that hold our society together. No value has suffered more than individual responsibility. A nation whose creed is individualism courts disaster if it then proceeds to weaken the moral responsibility of the individual by a philosophy of entitlement. The social conservatism that has re-emerged in response has found its political expression in a bipartisan readiness to cut social services and other programs, which is understandable. Americans ask, If we are spending so much, why aren't we seeing better results? Many Americans see themselves as subsidizing well-organized special-interest groups that are excessively influential in shaping the decisions of our rulers once they are in office.

The voters are rebelling not just against big government—everyone's villain these days—but against bad government. The government has proved inadequate in grappling with the problems of corporate downsizing and declining incomes that now affect tens of millions of workers. We have civil servants who are not civil, public schools that do not teach the public, a criminal justice system that neither reduces crime nor produces justice and economic insecurity even in a rapidly growing economy.

Merely cutting this and that is hardly a sufficient response. There are areas where only government can lead. Higher education and continual learning are a place to start. Higher education is an investment in the greatest strength a country has, its people. We need a modern version of the GI Bill, which provided mass higher education for more than 20 million veterans and dependents. Any student able to meet minimum standards upon graduation from high school should qualify for a scholarship for higher education for the information age, providing family income does not exceed a maximum amount of, say, \$125,000. This would be a constructive way to shrink the gap between the haves and the have-nots—much better than doing it only by taxation.

Such a program would cost billions of dollars. But government must find a way to re-order its priorities, to shift money from less valuable programs. Without positive policies to arrest our national decay, the deep anxiety that now seizes much of our society may well turn to fear, or even panic. It is fear that has provided the political basis for the success of Pat Buchanan. But it is hope that will sustain and enrich us. •

INCREASING THE FEDERAL DEBT LIMIT

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I wanted to express my concern over the increase in the public debt limit which occurred under a unanimous-consent agreement on the Thursday before the Easter recess. Having earlier expressed in a letter to the Republican leadership my intention to oppose an increase in the debt limit if it was not directly connected to a balanced budget. I believe this unanimous-consent agreement hangs over this Congress like a black cloud, marking a dark day for the American taxpayers.

The Congress had done the hard work of putting together a balanced budget

that would have put this Nation on the glidepath to eliminating the deficit. Furthermore, it represented our best hope for tackling our \$5 trillion debt.

Yet the President carelessly vetoed the bill and its key reforms which would have restored solvency to our Medicare System and ended welfare as we know it. All the while, he has sat at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, clamoring for more spending.

Mr. President, I believe yesterday's vote was a white flag of surrender, and a retreat on our pledge to protect the American taxpayers. Nothing in this bill ensures any progress will be made with this Administration in attempting to reach a balanced budget agreement.

Instead, we promised this President we would increase the credit limit on the Nation's charge card by \$600 billion—an amount the Congressional Budget Office estimates will be exceeded by next summer. And what did the taxpayers receive in return? The promise of bigger government, a bigger debt, and more of the status quo.

I will acknowledge that the bill did contain two riders which I have supported. The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act is similar to a measure I had supported earlier this month. And as a cosponsor of the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act, I had advocated passage of this bill earlier this year. But I do not believe seniors or small business should be held hostage to an increase in the debt limit. Unfortunately, they were used to mask the fact that yesterday's vote dragged us deeper into financial chaos.

While the Federal Government's impending financial crisis may have been averted by this debt limit increase, the President must understand that our action does not absolve him of his responsibility in derailing the first real balanced budget produced by a Congress in over 25 years. Given that track record, we cannot allow another increase to occur without the enactment of a balanced budget plan. The Nation's credit card is ready to snap under the heavy load we have already heaped upon it—the American taxpayers are no longer willing to shoulder that burden. •

CANADA, BACKED BY MEXICO, PROTESTS TO UNITED STATES ON CUBA SANCTIONS

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I cast 1 of the 22 votes against the Cuban sanction bill that passed the Senate and has been signed by the President.

I read the story in the New York Times, by Richard Stevenson, titled "Canada, Backed by Mexico Protests to United States on Cuba Sanctions," which I ask to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD after my remarks.

Canada is right, Mexico is right, and the Senate, House, and the President are wrong on this one.

We are capitulating to emotion, and we will have done not one thing to discourage Castro.