

Basin Pick-Sloan Project to the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes. The joint hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
WHITewater DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED
MATTERS

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee to investigate Whitewater development and related matters be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 25, 1996 to conduct hearings pursuant to Senate Resolution 120.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Caucus on International Narcotics Control be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 25 at 19:00 a.m. to receive testimony on the domestic consequences of illegal drug trade.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, HISTORIC
PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 25, 1996, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider S. 902, a bill to amend Public Law 100-479 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the construction of a building to be used jointly by the Secretary for park purposes and by the city of Natchez as an intermodal transportation center; S. 951, a bill to commemorate the service of First Ladies Jacqueline Kennedy and Patricia Nixon to improving and maintaining the Executive Residence of the President and to authorize grants to the White House Endowment Fund in their memory to continue their work; S. 1098, a bill to establish the Midway Islands as a National Memorial; H.R. 826, a bill to extend the deadline for the completion of certain land exchanges involving the Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas; and H.R. 1163, a bill to authorize the exchange of National Park Service land in the Fire Island National Seashore in the State of New York for land in the Village of Patchogue, Suffolk County, NY.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANDATES

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, pursuant to Public Law 104-4, the Com-

mittee on Energy and Natural Resources has requested, and obtained, the opinion of the Congressional Budget Office regarding whether S. 1271, the Nuclear Policy Act of 1996 contains intergovernmental mandates as defined in that act. I ask that the opinion of the Congressional Budget Office be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety.

The opinion follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 18, 1996.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 1271, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1996 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 13, 1996, in order to determine whether the bill contains intergovernmental mandates. CBO provided federal and private sector mandates cost estimates for this bill on March 28, 1996. CBO is unsure whether the bill contains intergovernmental mandates, as defined in Public Law 104-4, but we estimate that if there are mandates, they would impose costs on state, local and tribal governments totaling significantly less than the \$50 million threshold established in the law.

S. 1271 would amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act by directing the Department of Energy (DOE) to:

Begin storing spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste at an interim storage facility in Nevada, no later than November 30, 1999;

Establish an intermodal transfer facility at Caliente, Nevada, by November 30, 1999, to transfer material from rail facilities to heavy-haul trucks for transport to the interim storage facility;

Enter into a benefits agreement with Lincoln County, Nevada (the site of the transfer facility), and make payments to the county under that agreement as specified in the bill; and

Continue site characterization activities at the proposed permanent repository site at Yucca Mountain, also in Nevada.

In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of such sums as are necessary to establish a pilot program to decontaminate and decontaminate an experimental reactor owned by the University of Arkansas.

While S. 1271 would, by itself, establish no new enforceable duties on state, local, or tribal governments, it is possible that the construction and operation of an interim storage facility as required by the bill would increase the cost to the state of complying with existing federal requirements. CBO has not yet determined whether these costs would be considered the direct costs of a mandate for the purposes of Public Law 104-4.

Interim Storage Facility.—The state of Nevada and its constituent local governments would incur additional costs as a result of the interim storage facility required by this bill. CBO expects that state spending would increase by as much as \$20 million per year until shipments to the facility begin in 1999 and \$5 million per year between that time and the time that the permanent facility at Yucca Mountain begins operations. This additional spending would support a number of activities, including emergency response planning and training, escort of waste shipments, and environmental monitoring. In addition, spending by Nevada counties for similar activities would probably increase, but by much smaller amounts. Not all of this

spending would be for the purpose of complying with federal requirements.

These costs are similar to those that the state would eventually incur under current law as a result of the permanent repository planned for Yucca Mountain. DOE currently does not expect to begin receiving material at a permanent repository until at least 2010, while under S. 1271 it would begin to receive material at an interim facility in 1999. As a result, the state would have to respond to the shipment and storage of waste at least ten years sooner. Further, state costs would increase because it would have to plan for two facilities.

The state could incur substantial additional costs relating to road construction and maintenance as a result of the shipment of waste by heavy-haul truck from the transfer facility in Caliente to the interim storage facility. Based on information provided by DOE, however, CBO expects that the federal government would pay most of these costs.

Federal Payments to State and Local Government.—S. 1271 would authorize payments to Lincoln County, Nevada, of \$2.5 million in each year before waste is shipped to the interim facility and \$5 million annually after shipments begin. In addition, the bill identifies several parcels of land that would be conveyed to Lincoln County by the federal government.

The state government and other governments in Nevada would lose payments from the federal government if S. 1271 is enacted, however. The bill would eliminate section 116 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which authorizes payments to the state of Nevada and to local governments within the state. Section 116 currently authorizes DOE to make grants to the state and to affected local governments to enable them to participate in evaluating and developing a site for a permanent repository and to offset any negative impacts of such a site on those governments. Further, that section authorizes DOE to make payments to the state and to local governments equal to amounts they would have received in taxes if all activities at the repository site were subject to state and local taxes.

In recent years, Congress has appropriated amounts ranging from \$12 million to \$15 million per year under this section for Nevada and for local governments in the state. No funds have been specifically appropriated for these grants in fiscal year 1996, but DOE is authorized to provide funds from other appropriations.

S. 1271 would continue the provision in current law that directs DOE to provide technical assistance and funds to state and local governments and Indian tribes through whose jurisdictions radioactive material would be transported. This assistance would primarily cover training of public safety officials. In addition, DOE would be required to conduct a program of public education in those states. The amount of costs reimbursable under these provisions is very uncertain and would depend largely on the routes selected by DOE for transport of material to the storage sites. Based on information provided by state officials, we believe that states would be unlikely to spend their own funds on these activities unless reimbursed by the federal government.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, DIRECTOR. •

THE LINE-ITEM VETO

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago President Clinton signed the line item veto into law. I would just like to

explain briefly why I voted for this bill during the Senate's debate in March.

I have long believed that giving the President line-item veto authority will be helpful in imposing budget discipline. I think it will be helpful in preventing unsupportable spending projects from being added to spending bills without public notice, debate, or hearings. I have voted for the line-item veto three times in the past three Congresses. So I am delighted that the Senate finally had a chance to vote on the conference report.

LINE-ITEM VETO SEES THE LIGHT OF DAY

I was especially pleased, Mr. President, because I had been in some suspense as to whether the line-item veto bill would emerge at all from the Senate's conference with the House. It was on March 23, 1995 that the Senate passed our line-item veto bill. The House took so long that I had to offer an amendment to urge the Speaker to agree to the Senate's invitation to a conference. When the House passed its bill, the budget debates slowed down the conference. There were weeks when I questioned whether we would be able to send the line-item veto to the President at all.

Once the line-item veto did emerge from conference, a full year after the Senate passed its version, I could not help wondering whether the timing was an attempt by the majority to avoid giving President Clinton the line-item veto this year. The veto law will take effect only in January 1997, long after this Congress should complete its budget work. Since I voted to give Presidents Reagan and Bush the line-item veto, I regret that President Clinton will gain the line-item veto power only after this year's heavy legislative lifting is done.

Having gotten my disappointment about the bill's timing off my chest, Mr. President, let me go on to discuss my views on the conference report.

LINE-ITEM VETO A SENSIBLE REFORM

Let there be no mistake about the line-item veto. It is a historic budget reform. It would enable the President to veto spending projects. That power is important because Congress has a bad habit of spending money on projects that we have not reviewed in committee hearings or permitted in authorization bills.

The line-item veto law would also enable vetoes of new entitlement spending and targeted tax benefits. This is crucial because entitlements are the fastest-growing portion of the Federal budget. Lastly, the bill also contains a provision requiring that savings achieved by the line-item veto be devoted solely to deficit reduction. Presidents will use the line-item veto only to save money.

So, Mr. President, I am pleased that we have achieved this bipartisan budget reform. Fully 43 Governors have the line-item veto, which suggests to me that it is a power that the President can safely wield.

The bill will help the President control spending abuses, especially unau-

thorized projects in appropriations bills. The line-item veto seemed to me to be a sensible reform. That is why I voted for it, and why I am pleased it is now the law of the land.●

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WEEK

● Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, on February 1 of this year, the Governor of Tennessee, the Honorable Don Sundquist, signed a proclamation stating that this past week, April 17-22, 1995, would be known in Tennessee as National Association of Retired Federal Employees Week.

Last week, on April 19, also marked the first anniversary of the bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City. A number of members from the Tennessee chapter to the National Association of Retired Federal Employees faithfully volunteered their time and energy to help the victims and the community in Oklahoma following this tragic event. This spirit of contribution continues to distinguish civil servants, retired and employed.

It gives me great pleasure at this time to request the unanimous consent of my colleagues to have printed in the RECORD a proclamation by the Governor of my State of Tennessee, the Honorable Don Sundquist.

A PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Whereas, the United States Civil Service Act of 1883 was signed into law by then President Chester A. Arthur, thereby creating the United States Civil Service System; and

Whereas, the United States Civil Service Retirement System was created in 1920 and signed into law by then President Woodrow Wilson; and

Whereas, virtually every state, county, and municipal civil service system has developed from the Civil Service Act; and

Whereas, untold thousands of United States Civil Service employees have worked diligently, patriotically, silently, and with little notice to uphold the highest traditions and ideas of our country; and

Whereas, thousands of Federal employees are retired in Tennessee and continue to devote inestimable time and effort toward the betterment of our communities and state;

Now therefore, I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of April 14-20, 1996, as National Association of Federal Employees Week in Tennessee and do urge all our citizens to join in this worthy observance.●

RETIREMENT OF DR. ROBERT A. ALOST

● Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Louisianian, my good friend, Dr. Robert A. Alost, who has announced his retirement as president of Northwestern State University after a long and distinguished career of service to NSU, the city of Natchitoches, and the State of Louisiana.

During his 10-year presidency at NSU, Northwestern has been transformed from a regional university to

an institution of statewide prominence. Dr. Alost's tireless efforts to widen and enrich the educational experience of his school have strengthened every aspect of the institution. Student enrollment has increased by over 71 percent and the average ACT score is up, the school's academic curriculum has expanded by leaps and bounds, and its financial status has never been stronger.

While this progress merits commendation, Dr. Alost is even more deserving of recognition because he considers his accomplishments as simply part of his service to his alma mater, to a school he loves, and to a faculty and student body he considers his family. There are three words which come to mind when describing Robert Alost: service, leadership, and innovation. I know that countless other Louisianians would agree with this assessment, for his personal and professional history truly exemplify each of these qualities.

Dr. Alost's dedication to Northwestern State University is rooted in his own experience as a student at NSU, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1957 and a masters degree in 1958. After receiving a doctoral degree from Louisiana State University in 1963, Dr. Alost had a wide range of aspirations, and of all the opportunities available to him, he decided to dedicate his career to the advancement of Northwestern State University. He has risen from a young faculty member to its president, and has left a lasting legacy which will be appreciated for generations.

Under Dr. Alost's watch, the expansion of NSU's research and academic programs have placed it at the forefront of several innovative programs in higher education. Northwestern became America's first university selected to participate in the JointVenture [JOVE] Program with the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. The results of this project, involving the analysis of data collected in space exploration, will have unlimited applications. Young people from across the United States will benefit from this cutting-edge program, and NSU's new space science curriculum and summer camp program will help support America's future scientists. Dr. Alost oversaw the development of the Louisiana Scholars College, which was designated by the State Board of Regents as the State's selective-admission college of the liberal arts and has elevated NSU's reputation to statewide prominence.

Dr. Alost has overseen many other noteworthy additions to NSU. Northwestern began a program in intercollegiate debate which won the 1994 Cross Examination Debate Association National Championship and has been the top program in the country over the past 5 years. Dr. Alost supervised the establishment of a doctoral program in educational technology to instruct educators on the most effective methods of using technology in the classroom. Northwestern is working with