

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

the nationally recognized Duke University Talent Identification Program, which identifies verbally and mathematically gifted young people, and it offers regional residential courses to these special students. Dr. Alost has also overseen the establishment of Northwestern Abroad, which provides travel-study opportunities to students who wish to expand their knowledge of other cultures.

I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Alost when we brought the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training to NSU, a national institution dedicated to historic preservation. This one-of-a-kind center was established by the National Park Service to train cultural resource professionals and serve as a clearinghouse for the transfer of historic preservation technology across the country. It is the innovative examples I have just cited which have designated Northwestern State University as a premier institution for higher learning.

Dr. Alost's service has also touched those outside of the Northwestern community. Over the years, numerous civic, professional, and religious organizations have flourished under his leadership. He has served as president and on the board of directors of the Natchitoches Tourist Commission. As an administrator and educator, he served as president of the Louisiana Council for Deans of Education, the Louisiana Association for Colleges and Teacher Education, and the Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

While Dr. Alost is a great source of pride for Northwestern State University, he has also been honored with many local, State, and national awards. In 1985, he was recognized by the Louisiana Association of School Executives as the State's Educator of the Year. In 1986, he received the Leadership Award from the Louisiana Association of Gifted and Talented Students. The citizens of Natchitoches proclaimed him Man of the Year in 1987. His achievements were heralded on a national level in 1989 when he was presented with the Phi Kappa Phi Distinguished Member Award.

Dr. Robert Alost's lifetime of achievement is truly an inspiration, and he serves as an incredible role model for those who believe that the possibilities are limitless. It has been an honor and a privilege to know him. I congratulate Dr. Alost on his distinguished career and wish him well as he enjoys the well-earned rewards of retirement.●

INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY AND THE INDIANAPOLIS 500

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today as the month of May approaches to pay tribute to an important part of Hoosier heritage, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Indianapolis 500.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway was built in 1909 to provide a testing

ground for Indiana's burgeoning automobile industry. Indiana was home at the time to such names as Duessenburg, Cord, Marmon, Stutz, National, Cole, Auburn, and Apperson.

The first Indianapolis 500 was run in 1911 and races have been run ever since. In 1917, the track backstretch was given over to the military for use as an aviation maintenance training center. It became one of the first lighted runways in the world. Races were canceled during the years 1917, 1918 and 1942-45 out of respect for the war effort. Since those early days, the race has grown to become a rite of spring for millions of Americans, attracting the world's largest 1-day sporting event crowd, as well as an immense broadcast audience.

Indianapolis is the home of the IndyCar racing industry, and the month of May is an especially dynamic time in our State. As race season begins, it is appropriate that we honor this uniquely American event and all those who have made it possible. In particular, we take pride in honoring the memory and vision of Tony Hulman, Jr.; the steadfast service of his wife, Mary Fendrich Hulman; and their daughter, Mari Hulman George; as well as the strong leadership of Indianapolis Motor Speedway president Anton H. George, who personifies the very future of IndyCar racing.●

TRIBUTE TO ADM. JAMES S. RUSSELL

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to record the passing of a truly great American, Admiral James S. Russell. Adm. Russell built a remarkable legacy as a distinguished and decorated military officer and a respected civic leader in Washington State.

James Sargent Russell was born on March 22, 1903, in Tacoma, WA, where he spent his childhood. Eager to serve his country in World War I, he attempted to join the U.S. Navy after graduating from high school. Because he was too young, the Navy would not accept his enlistment. Instead, he followed his love of the sea, beginning his maritime career as a seaman in the Merchant Marine.

In 1922, he entered the U.S. Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1926. This marked the beginning of a long and illustrious tour of duty with the U.S. Navy. After serving aboard the battleship *West Virginia*, he entered the young field of naval aviation, and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1929.

During World War II, then-Lieutenant Commander Russell led Patrol Squadron 42 in the Aleutian Island Campaign. For his heroism and exceptional service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Legion of Merit. After serving in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, DC, he returned to combat duty in the Pacific and was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit.

Following World War II, he assumed the post of commander of the U.S.S. *Coral Sea* and then was chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics, rising to the rank of vice admiral. From 1958 to 1962, he served as Vice Chief of Naval Operations with the four-star rank of Admiral. Because of his exceptionally meritorious efforts in that capacity, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

In 1962, Admiral Russell was named commander in chief of the Allied Forces in Southern Europe, a position he held until his retirement from active duty in 1965. His leadership during a time of heightened tensions earned him a Gold Star in lieu of the second Distinguished Service Medal.

The advancement of the field of naval aviation owes a great deal to the work of Admiral Russell. He entered the field when biplanes ruled the skies and aided the development of supersonic fighters. For his work on the development of the F-8 Crusader Navy fighter, the first ship-based fighter to fly faster than 1,000 miles per hour, Admiral Russell was awarded the prestigious Collier Trophy in 1956.

Recognition of his work extends beyond the borders of the United States, and is evidenced by his receipt of three foreign decorations. These include: the Order of Naval Merit (Grand Officer) by Brazil, the Legion of Honor (Commander) by France, and the Peruvian Cross of Naval Merit (Great Cross).

After retiring from active duty, Admiral Russell returned to the Tacoma area and became a prominent member of that community. He remained active in the aerospace industry as a consultant and board member. However, his second career, which spanned almost as many years as his first, was as a civic leader who bridged the civilian and military communities. Indeed, at an age when many of his contemporaries were enjoying a quiet retirement, Admiral Russell took an active role in community affairs.

Admiral Russell leaves his wife, Geraldine; his son and daughter-in-law, Don and Katherine Russell; his daughter-in-law, Anitha Russell; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. I wish to express my sincere sympathy and condolences to these and other members of his family.

All who are acquainted with Admiral Russell know that his work has benefited and will continue to benefit countless individuals in Washington State, across this Nation, and around the globe. Admiral Russell served his country and community selflessly for three-quarters of a century. He led by example and earned the respect of all who knew him. I and so many people—his friends, colleagues, family, and community members—are sincerely grateful for his many contributions to military and civilian life. He leaves behind a great legacy and will not be soon forgotten.●