

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. REVIEW AND REPORT ON H-2A NON-IMMIGRANT WORKERS PROGRAM.

(a) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the enactment of this Act may impact the future availability of an adequate work force for the producers of our Nation's labor intensive agricultural commodities and livestock.

(b) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall review the effectiveness of the H-2A nonimmigrant worker program to ensure that the program provides a workable safety value in the event of future shortages of domestic workers after the enactment of this Act. Among other things, the Comptroller General shall review the program to determine—

(1) that the program ensures that an adequate supply of qualified United States workers is available at the time and place needed for employers seeking such workers after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) that the program ensures that there is timely approval of applications for temporary foreign workers under the H-2A nonimmigrant worker program in the event of shortages of United States workers after the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) that the program ensures that implementation of the H-2A nonimmigrant worker program is not displacing United States agricultural workers or diminishing the terms and conditions of employment of United States agricultural workers; and

(4) if and to what extent the H-2A nonimmigrant worker program is contributing to the problem of illegal immigration.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 1996, or three months after the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is sooner, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress setting forth the findings of the review conducted under subsection (b).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

(1) the term "Comptroller General" means the Comptroller General of the United States; and

(2) the term "H-2A nonimmigrant worker program" means the program for the admission of nonimmigrant aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(iii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public the scheduling of a hearing before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management on S. 1662, the Omnibus Oregon Resources Conservation Act.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 1996 at 2:00 PM in SD 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC. Testimony will be received on the two major titles of the bill: Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic-Recreation Area; and Coquille Forest Proposal.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC. 20510. For further information, please call Mark Rey of the subcommittee staff at 202-224-6170.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services and the associated subcommittees be authorized to meet at the following times 3 pm Monday, April 29, 1996. For markup of the fiscal year 1997 Defense authorization bill.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN MURPHY, DIANE LONERGAN, DIANE SAWYER, AND BREWSTER BARTLETT FOR RECEIVING THE 1995 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHING

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise before you today to congratulate four outstanding New Hampshire teachers on receiving the 1995 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. Kevin Murphy of Milford, an elementary school mathematics teacher at Milford Elementary School in Milford; Diane Lonergan of Merrimack, an elementary school science teacher at Memorial School in Bedford; Diane Sawyer of Portsmouth, a secondary school mathematics teacher at Exeter Area Junior High School in Exeter; and Brewster Bartlett of Loudon, a secondary school science teacher at Pinkerton Academy in Derry were the four deserving recipients of this prestigious award.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching Program is administered by the National Science Foundation [NSF]. The awards are designed to recognize and reward outstanding teachers from elementary and secondary schools who serve as models for their colleagues and encourage high quality teachers to enter and remain in the teaching field. In addition to the distinguished national recognition that comes with the award, each recipient's school will receive an NSF grant of \$7,500 to be used under the direction of the teacher, and to supplement other resources for improving science or mathematics programs in the school system.

The four outstanding recipients of this teaching award will spend a week in May in Washington, DC, for a series of events to commemorate their selection. They will be honored at the U.S. State Department and other organizations such as the National Academy of Science.

There is no more important resource in America today than our school teachers. As a former teacher, I understand the devotion and hard work necessary to be a successful teacher and a positive role model for children. These

four outstanding teachers have displayed not only extraordinary talents in their teaching, but have also shown a remarkable level of commitment to their students. I am proud to honor these four exceptional teachers for nurturing the best and the brightest students New Hampshire has to offer. I would like to congratulate Kevin Murphy, Brewster Bartlett, Diane Lonergan, and Diane Sawyer for this distinguished recognition, and thank them for their devotion to students in New Hampshire.●

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT ON THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION, H.R. 3019

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am pleased I was able to support the conference agreement on H.R. 3019, the 14th and final effort to provide FY 96 funding for the various agencies of the Federal Government, when it passed the Senate on April 25 by a vote of 88-11.

After a long and wrenching struggle, Republicans and Democrats finally reached agreement on the remaining fiscal year 1996 appropriations measures that will fund nine cabinet departments and dozens of agencies for the balance of this fiscal year. These appropriations bills were supposed to have been completed on September 30 last year. Meanwhile more than half of the fiscal year has expired. Hopefully, the exercise we have gone through this appropriations cycle—14 continuing resolutions and 2 long government shutdowns—will not be repeated. It's time to get on with the business of Government and run it in a business-like manner.

Overall, appropriations levels for fiscal year 1996 have been cut by \$23 billion. That represents a significant downpayment on reaching a balanced budget over the next 7 years. The dispute concerning these bills was a struggle over priorities. The House bill, as originally passed, made cuts in programs that the President and many of us in Congress believe are critical to the long-term economic and social health of the Nation. While nobody received everything he or she wanted in this long-awaited conference agreement, I commend the conferees for moving significantly closer to the President's position by providing approximately \$5.1 billion more than the House originally sought for education, job training, environmental protection, technology, and law enforcement. These increases, which I believe are essential investments in our future, have been fully offset with cuts in other accounts. The lack of certainty about Federal education funding levels was playing havoc with school systems throughout the country. I am pleased that they will now be able to accurately plan their budgets and sign teacher contracts for the next school year.

I would also like to commend the conferees for their efforts to eliminate

most of the extraneous legislative riders in the bill. Under the conference agreement, the President was given the authority to waive implementation of these riders, most of which are attempts to weaken our environmental laws and regulations. Knowing the strong commitment that the President and Vice President have to protecting our environment, I am quite certain that the President will exercise his authority to ensure that these riders are not implemented. These legislative restrictions have no place on an appropriations bill to begin with. More importantly, they seriously undermine our commitment to ensure a healthy and safe environment for our children. Every poll indicates that the public expects the Government to be the public steward of our precious natural resources—our public lands, our air, and our water. That stewardship must not be abandoned.

This bill also addresses critical local issues. As all of my colleagues know, flooding in the Devils Lake Basin continues to pose serious problems for residents and businesses in North Dakota. Just this week, Devils Lake reached another 120-year high level and the lake is expected to rise by an additional two feet next June or July. When the lake rose to its current level last July, it caused \$50 million in damages to roads and public and private property in the area. Similar damages are expected this year.

Because of this serious situation, during the Senate's original consideration of this measure, Senator CONRAD and I proposed two amendments to mitigate the flooding problems at Devils Lake. Those amendments were adopted by the full Senate. The first amendment added \$10 million to the Economic Development Administration budget for hazard mitigation assistance in the form of road raises and water storage on private lands in the Devils Lake Basin. The second amendment provided an additional \$2.8 million to the Fish and Wildlife Service for water storage and for necessary repairs on their already damaged lands in the Devils Lake area. The House bill had no similar provisions.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, particularly Senators HATFIELD, BYRD, HOLLINGS, GORTON and GREGG, for ensuring that the bulk of the money provided in our floor amendments was retained in conference. While there are no earmarks in the conference agreement, the statement of managers report makes clear that the Fish and Wildlife Service should give every consideration to the needs at Devils Lake in allocating the \$38.9 million in additional disaster relief funding made available to that agency in the conference agreement.

The total pot of disaster funding in the bill for the Economic Development Administration—\$18 million—is made available for disasters in the Pacific Northwest and for other disasters nationwide, so North Dakota will have to

compete with other States for that money. Senator CONRAD and I intend to work closely with the administration to ensure that Devils Lake receives its fair share of that funding. If we successful, we can take preventive measures to mitigate the anticipated flooding in the Devils Lake Basin this summer, and significantly reduce future Federal and State disaster assistance outlays.

While this is not a perfect agreement, it's a good compromise, and I am pleased that the overwhelming majority of my colleagues supported it. •

WELCOME TO DR. ABDALLA A. NSSOUR, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to extend welcoming remarks to Dr. Abdalla A. Nssour, Deputy Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Dr. Nssour will be the honored guest at a dinner on May 2, 1996 in Livonia, MI. In addition, I would also like to welcome to Michigan His Excellency Fayez Tarawneh, Ambassador to the United States from Jordan, and Head of the Jordanian Delegation to the Middle East Peace Process. The American Arab Chamber of Commerce, Michigan, the Jordanian American Association of Michigan, and Royal Jordanian Airlines will be sponsoring the dinner honoring Dr. Nssour.

In addition to serving as Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Nssour also serves as the Minister of Higher Education and the Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Jordanian Parliament. Prior to his esteemed government service, Dr. Nssour had many great accomplishments in the scientific community. I am certain that the dinner audience will be greatly enriched by Dr. Nssour's remarks.

It is most fitting that the Arab American community has chosen to honor Dr. Nssour for his service to his country and I am pleased to join the community in welcoming Dr. Nssour to Michigan. •

THE US MILITARY AND A NEW CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this week the Senate Armed Services Committee is engaged in marking up the fiscal year 1997 Defense authorization bill. All of us on the committee, as well as many of my colleagues who are not on the defense committee, are concerned about how we fund, structure, equip, maintain and train our military forces to meet the challenges which our country faces today and will face tomorrow as we defend and advance our national interests. I would like to speak for a few moments today about some of the difficult questions I believe we are facing as we confront the challenges which lie ahead for our military forces.

The millennium is coming and beyond it a new century—a century which, if what we see occurring around us today offers any indication, will bring changes few of us can begin to imagine, no more than people at the end of the 19th century could have foretold what the 20th century would bring.

We need only to look at the incredible leaps which have occurred in technology in the past decade and the ever-increasing frequency with which new technological wonders are being introduced to know that the 21st Century will be a time of amazing change full of great opportunity and great risk for all of us.

The past years have shown us not only that new technologies are becoming more readily available—whether it is faster, smaller and cheaper computers and computer chips, inexpensive and reliable global positioning systems, or communications which permit us to bring into our homes hundreds of different television channels from around the world, movies on demand, and global news which is real-time and all too real—but that changes will have to come about in the way we organize our daily lives and the very structure of businesses and institutions in response to that technology. Those enterprises which fail to adapt to new technology quickly find themselves behind their competitors and, in the private sector, are soon out of business.

The same is true of national governments and military organizations—those which are unable to recognize that rapid change is the one constant in our lives and cannot exploit that change, risk falling behind their potential competitors. History teaches that every significant new industrial or technological advance finds its way into warfare. Unlike business, however, the price of failure for our national security is not bankruptcy or disappointed shareholders; it could well be the loss of our freedom, our foreign markets and the safe and prosperous future which all of us seek for our children.

Guaranteeing our security in the new century will require innovation. It will also require courage and wisdom as we incorporate technology and innovation into our defense structure.

To help structure the very important debate which I believe we need to engage in across the country on national security, I would like to offer a few observations and pose a few questions.

First, as we look to the future, we ought to be asking a very basic question: What is it we want our military to be able to do? Not just in the sense of military capabilities—this is an important question we will get to shortly—rather, the broader question that underlies the other. What role do we want the United States to play in the next century and what will we need our military to be able to do in order for the US to play that role?