

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 534, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 592, 593, 599, and 600.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. I ask unanimous consent the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade of brigadier general under the provisions of title 10, United States Code, section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. William Welser III, 000-00-0000, Regular Air Force.

PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION

Markos K. Marinakis, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of the Panama Canal Commission.

AIR FORCE

The following-named officer for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Richard B. Myers, 000-00-0000

The following-named officer for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. John P. Jumper, 000-00-0000, U.S. Air Force.

The following-named officer for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart, 000-00-0000, U.S. Air Force

The following-named officer for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

Maj. Gen. Carl E. Franklin, 000-00-0000, U.S. Air Force

ARMY

The following-named officer for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the U.S. Army, while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601(a):

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Daniel W. Christman, 000-00-0000, U.S. Army

NAVY

The following-named officer for promotion in the Navy of the United States to the grade under title 10, United States Code, Section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) James F. Amerault, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Lyle G. Bien, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy.

Rear Adm. (1h) Richard A. Buchanan, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) William V. Cross II, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Walter F. Doran, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) James O. Ellis, Jr., 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) William J. Fallon, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Thomas B. Fargo, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Dennis V. McGinn, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Joseph S. Mobley, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Edward Moore, Jr., 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Daniel J. Murphy, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Rodney P. Rempt, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Raymond C. Smith, Jr., 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

RESTRICTED LINE

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) George P. Nanos, Jr., 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Craig E. Steidle, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) James L. Taylor, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

Rear Adm. (1h) Patricia A. Tracey, 000-00-0000, U.S. Navy

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Ginger Ehn Lew, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

[NEW REPORTS]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J. Rene Josey, of South Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of 4 years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

NOTE

On page S5598 of the RECORD of May 23, the statement of Mr. BOND on the introduction of S. 1816, the Wisconsin Works Act, was inadvertently attributed to Mr. GRASSLEY. The permanent RECORD has been corrected to reflect the following.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, and Mr. NICKLES):

S. 1816. A bill to expedite waiver approval for the "Wisconsin Works" plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

THE WISCONSIN WORKS ACT OF 1996

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a measure that will assist the President of the United States in carrying out a promise he made to the people of Wisconsin that he would approve the Wisconsin Works program. There have been some problems getting welfare actually acted on. I had a very nice letter from the President last year for the work that we did on the welfare reform bill. But that measure got vetoed and so did a subsequent measure.

Now, the President has said that he supports the welfare reform demonstration project in Wisconsin, known as Wisconsin Works. Well, today, on behalf of myself, Senators COATS, Abraham, GRAMM of Texas, ASHCROFT, CRAIG, COVERDELL, GRASSLEY, GREGG, SANTORUM, FAIRCLOTH, and NICKLES, I am submitting a very brief bill, which, in substance, says that when waivers are submitted by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Services to conduct a demonstration project known as Wisconsin Works, those waivers shall be deemed approved.

We have heard many stories about the need to reform welfare, Mr. President, and one of those stories that has been repeated recently is that of an experiment in Sedalia, MO, where applicants for food stamps were sent to an employer. Many of them took jobs, which is good. It moved them off public assistance. Those who were turned down because they were not capable could stay on public assistance. Those who refused to show up were taken off of the food stamp rolls. So there was an incentive for those who did not want to work. Two people went for the job, but they were turned down because they tested positively for drugs.

Under existing Federal law, the State of Missouri could not sanction those people, even though they were turned down for a job because they tested positive for drugs. The simple point of that is that that creates the most perverse of incentives—the incentive for people who are on public assistance and who do not want to have to take a job to get on drugs and they can stay on the public assistance rolls.

That is the kind of thing that needs to be changed. That is why we need welfare reform. Today, Mr. President, I am simply acting to expedite one of the many waivers now pending from the States, which has been delayed, I understand from the Governors, an average of 210 days. This measure, if and when adopted, will deem the waivers submitted by the State of Wisconsin to be approved.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House had passed the

following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3448. An act to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers in complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements under that Act.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1822. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to permit the Secretary of Agriculture to waive the prohibition on the termination of conservation reserve contracts for certain lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DOLE:

S. 1823. A bill to restore the American family, enhance support and work opportunities for families with children, reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies, reduce welfare dependence by requiring work, control welfare spending, and increase State flexibility; read twice and placed on the calendar.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM:

S. Con. Res. 63. A concurrent resolution to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by the prolonged drought conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1822. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to permit the Secretary of Agriculture to waive the prohibition on the termination of conservation reserve contracts for certain lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CONTRACTS MODIFICATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am today introducing legislation to make a minor modification in the rules applicable to the early termination of Conservation Reserve Program contracts. This bill will provide greater flexibility in the management of CRP acreage and increase opportunities for

livestock production using land that has been enrolled in CRP, while continuing to protect against soil erosion and to conserve the natural resource base.

The Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 established a new early termination option for holders of CRP contracts. Participants who entered into a contract before January 1, 1995, may terminate the contract at any time if the contract has been in effect for at least 5 years. Certain lands considered to be of high environmental value are not eligible for the early termination option. The act specifically disallows the early termination of contracts on land having an erodibility index of more than 15, a restriction that also was included in the rules for the early CRP termination option offered this spring through administrative action independent of the farm bill.

The restriction on early removal of the more highly erodible land from the CRP is obviously designed to reduce the potential for returning land to crop production where doing so presents a higher risk of damaging levels of soil erosion. Of course, a principal purpose of the CRP was to remove highly erodible land from production in order to conserve soil, so it is reasonable to ensure that early terminations of CRP contracts do not nullify the benefits of the CRP or negate the investment in conservation made by taxpayers through CRP payments.

While the prohibition against early termination of contracts on land having an erodibility index higher than 15 seems reasonable in general, it does not take much sense to livestock producers who would like to remove land from the CRP in order to use it for haying or grazing. The nationwide emergency release of CRP for grazing and haying has relieved a good deal of the concern regarding access to CRP acres for livestock feed—but only for this year. There is a real need for a longer term resolution of this matter.

My bill would simply allow the Secretary to waive the restrictions on the types of land that may be removed from the CRP under the early termination option if the Secretary determines that the land will be used only for haying, grazing or other use not involving the destruction of vegetable cover. By ensuring that the vegetable cover is not destroyed, protection against soil erosion will be maintained. In addition, any such waiver can be made only if the Secretary determines that the land will be used only in a manner that adequately protects the natural resource base. As discussed, the waiver authority contained in this bill is designed specifically to deal with the prohibition against early termination of CRP contracts on land with an erodibility index higher than 15. There may be some other instances in which a waiver meeting the requirements of this bill could be granted, but they would be tightly limited by the

requirement that vegetable cover not be destroyed and that the natural resource base be adequately protected.

Mr. President, this bill is a common-sense solution that will provide more reasonable options to CRP contract holders for returning land to economic use while maintaining vegetable cover and protecting the natural resource base. I hope my colleagues will support this legislation and that it will be enacted at the earliest opportunity. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1822

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TERMINATION OF CONSERVATION RESERVE CONTRACTS BY OWNERS OR OPERATORS.

Section 1235(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3835(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) CERTAIN LANDS EXCEPTED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the following lands shall not be subject to an early termination of contract under this subsection:

“(i) Filterstrips, waterways, strips adjacent to riparian areas, windbreaks, and shelterbelts.

“(ii) Land with an erodibility index of more than 15.

“(iii) Other lands of high environmental value (including wetlands), as determined by the Secretary.

“(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the application of subparagraph (A) to land if the Secretary determines that the land will be used only—

“(i) for haying, grazing, or other use not involving the destruction of vegetative cover; and

“(ii) in a manner that adequately protects the natural resource base of the land.”.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1386

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1386, a bill to provide for soft-metric conversion, and for other purposes.

S. 1578

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1578, a bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997 through 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the names of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL], and the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] were added as cosponsors of S. 1714, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure the ability of utility providers to establish, improve, operate and maintain utility structures, facilities, and equipment for the benefit, safety, and well-being of consumers, by removing limitations on maximum