

enforcement of adequate confinement so that narco-traffickers cannot continue their activities from inside prisons.

The present legislation also contains a provision for reporting on extraditions. Congress has had considerable difficulty in getting information from the State Department or the Justice Department on pending extraditions. Often, the first notice that an extradition has been agreed to is discovered in the morning paper, weeks after the extradition occurred. In an effort to shed more light on extraditions, this legislation would require a notice to Congress of any extradition agreement that has been reached. It has very simple requirements. And it will increase information on what the United States is giving up in order to reach these extradition agreements.

This legislation also expands the trade sanctions that are available for the President to choose from to penalize countries that do not adequately participate in drug efforts. Presently, there are five sanctions which the President may implement. This legislation adds five more sanctions to this list, both more and less severe than those presently available.

These sanctions include withdrawal of U.S. personnel and resources from participation in any Customs preclearance; denial of trade benefits under any existing free-trade area agreements; refusal to begin or continue negotiations on the establishment of a free trade area; denial or restriction of applications for immigrant or nonimmigrant visas; increased inspection standards to at least 35 percent for goods coming in; and denial of export of U.S. products or importation from that country.

Implementation of these sanctions are at the President's discretion for the first 2 years that a country is decertified. If a country is fully decertified or receives a national interest waiver for 3 consecutive years, then the President must choose and implement at least one of the listed sanctions. These sanctions will remain in effect until a country receives full certification.

The third change to the certification process that this legislation would make are changes in the international narcotics control strategy report.

These added reporting requirements identify what action the United States has taken under section 487—official corruption—of the Foreign Assistance Act and how the country has been affected by its implementation. Also, the report should indicate how a country has been affected economically by the production and trafficking in illegal drugs, and how and where U.S. equipment are being used. And finally, any country that is defined as a major money laundering country will be treated as a major drug transit or drug producing country.

These proposed changes enhance the ability of the United States to encourage full international cooperation in

dealing with the illegal drug trade. The provisions are fully in keeping with reasonable standards of international conduct. They are a serious part of making the stopping illegal drugs an important part of our foreign policy. There are fewer more direct and dangerous threats to our citizens today than that posed by illegal drugs. It is time to take the next step in ensuring that we are taking the responsible measures to control international drug trafficking.

That's why I am introducing this legislation today. I urge my colleagues to review this legislation and support this change.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 2054. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to exempt certain small lenders from the audit requirements of the guaranteed student loan program; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 AMENDMENT
ACT OF 1996

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to provide regulatory relief to small-and medium-sized financial institutions and protect the availability of student loans.

In the Higher Education Amendments of 1992, Congress required financial institutions participating in the Federal Family Education Loan [FFEL] Program to audit their student loan portfolios.

Unfortunately, this change did not take into account the impact this audit requirement would have on lenders with small student loan portfolios. These small lending institutions earn only a few thousand dollars annually, while the audit costs as much or more.

As a result of this prohibitively expensive and unnecessary audit requirement, many lenders are selling off their portfolios and leaving the FFEL Program altogether.

The Department of Education has indicated they do not have the authority to waive the audit requirement. Further, the Department has informed those with loan portfolios of less than \$10 million that, while they must perform the audits annually, the audit results shall be submitted to the Department only upon request. Thus, much of the time and money spent on these audits will be wasted.

The inspector general indicated in its semiannual report that they were concerned that the costs of legislatively required annual audits may outweigh the benefits. The inspector general has recommended that the Department take steps to establish in legislation a threshold for requiring these audits.

My legislation would eliminate the lender audit on institutions with portfolios equaling \$10 million or less. Without the change in current law lending institutions will continue to sell off their portfolios, leave the FFEL Program, and reduce the opportunities for our Nations' students.

I urge my colleagues to support this much needed reform. •

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 706

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 706, a bill to prohibit the importation of goods produced abroad with child labor and for other purposes.

S. 1417

At the request of Mr. HELMS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1417, a bill to assess the impact of the NAFTA, to require further negotiation of certain provisions of the NAFTA, and to provide for the withdrawal from the NAFTA unless certain conditions are met.

S. 1660

At the request of Mr. GLENN, the names of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR], the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE], and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] were added as cosponsors of S. 1660, a bill to provide for ballast water management to prevent the introduction and spread of nonindigenous species into the waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1712

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1712, a bill to provide incentives to encourage stronger truth in sentencing of violent offenders, and for other purposes.

S. 1797

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1797, a bill to revise the requirements for procurement of products of Federal Prison Industries to meet needs of Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to establish a uniform and more efficient Federal process for protecting property owners' rights guaranteed by the fifth amendment.

S. 1984

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1984, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to require a 10-percent reduction in certain assistance to a State under such title unless public safety officers who retire as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty continue to receive health insurance benefits.

S. 1987

At the request of Mr. FAIRCLOTH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1987, a bill to amend titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of Social Security and

Medicare trust funds for certain expenditures relating to union representatives at the Social Security Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services.

S. 2024

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2024, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a one-stop shopping information service for individuals with serious or life-threatening diseases.

SENATE RESOLUTION 277

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 277, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that, to ensure continuation of a competitive free-market system in the cattle and beef markets, the Secretary of Agriculture and Attorney General should use existing legal authorities to monitor commerce and practices in the cattle and beef markets for potential anti-trust violations, the Secretary of Agriculture should increase reporting practices regarding domestic commerce in the beef and cattle markets (including exports and imports), and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

MCCAIN AMENDMENT NO. 5176

Mr. MCCAIN proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 75, line 10, after word "expended" insert the following: "Provided, That no money appropriated for the Federal Emergency Management Agency may be expended for the repair of marinas or golf courses except for debris removal: *Provided further*, That no money appropriated for the Federal Emergency Management Agency may be expended for tree or shrub replacement except in public parks: *Provided further*, That any funds used for repair of any recreational facilities shall be limited to debris removal and the repair of recreational buildings only."

MCCAIN (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 5177

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. KYL) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3666, supra; as follows:

On page 104, below line 24, add the following:

SEC. 421. (a) PLAN.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a plan for the allocation of health care resources (including personnel and funds) of the Department of Veterans Affairs among the health care facilities of the Department so as to ensure that veterans who have similar economic status, eligibility priority, or medical conditions and who are eligible for medical care in such facilities have similar access to such care in such facilities regardless of the region of the United States in which such veterans reside.

(2) The plan shall—

(1) reflect, to the maximum extent possible, the Veterans Integrated Service Network and the Resource Planning and Management System developed by the Department to account for forecasts in expected workload and to ensure fairness to facilities that provide cost-efficient health care; and

(2) include—

(A) procedures to identify reasons for variations in operating costs among similar facilities; and

(B) ways to improve the allocation of resources so as to promote efficient use of resources and provision of quality health care.

(3) The Secretary shall prepare the plan in consultation with the Under Secretary of Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) PLAN ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection (a) shall set forth—

(1) milestones for achieving the goal referred to in paragraph (1) of that subsection; and

(2) a means of evaluating the success of the Secretary in meeting the goal.

(c) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress the plan developed under subsection (a) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall implement the plan developed under subsection (a) not later than 60 days after submitting the plan to Congress under subsection (c), unless within that time the Secretary notifies Congress that the plan will not be implemented in that time and includes with the notification an explanation why the plan will not be implemented in that time.

BUMPERS (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 5178

Mr. BUMPERS (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. SIMON, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BRADLEY, and Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3666, supra; as follows:

On page 82, strike lines 6 through 7, and insert in lieu thereof the following: "sion and administrative aircraft, \$3,762,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 1998: *Provided*, That of the funds made available in this bill, no funds shall be expended on the space station program, except for termination costs."

THOMAS AMENDMENT NO. 5179

Mr. THOMAS proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3666, supra; as follows:

In Title III, at the end of the subchapter entitled: Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality, strike "\$2,436,000." and insert in lieu thereof "\$2,250,000."

THOMAS AMENDMENT NO. 5180 (Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. THOMAS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 3666, supra; as follows:

Add a new section to the end of Title IV stating: "No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available for any activity or the publication or distribution of literature that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal on which congressional action is not complete."

BOND AMENDMENT NO. 5181

Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3666, supra; as follows:

Insert at the appropriate place at the end of the section on HUD:

"SEC. . REQUIREMENT FOR HUD TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT RULEMAKING."

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall maintain all current requirements under part 10 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations (24 CFR part 10) with respect to the Department's policies and procedures for the promulgation and issuance of rules, including the use of public participation in the rulemaking process.

SHELBY AMENDMENT NO. 5182

Mr. BOND (for Mr. SHELBY) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3666, supra; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 108. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may convey, without consideration, to the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama (in this section referred to as the "City"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, in the northwest quarter of section 28, township 21 south, range 9 west, of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, comprising a portion of the grounds of the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and consisting of approximately 9.42 acres, more or less.

(b) The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the condition that the City use the real property conveyed under that subsection in perpetuity solely for public park or recreational purposes.

(c) The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed pursuant to this section shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The cost of such survey shall be borne by the City.

(d) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

BOND AMENDMENT NO. 5183

Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3666, supra; as follows:

On page 72, beginning on line 11, strike the phrase beginning with "but if no drinking water" and ending with "as amended" on line 15.

BENNETT AMENDMENT NO. 5184

Mr. BOND (for Mr. BENNETT) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3666, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert:

SEC. . GAO AUDIT ON STAFFING AND CONTRACTING."

The Comptroller General shall audit the operations of the Office of Federal Housing