

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, pursuant to section 1025(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment and Control Act of 1974, referred to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, October 17, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2203, approved October 13, 1997). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachments, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Madam Speaker, a recent editorial in the Las Vegas Sun stated: "Nuclear industry stacks the deck." The article further states, "Dollars here. Get your campaign money here."

How true. Like hucksters at a carnival, the nuclear industry is dangling dollars in front of Senators and Congressmen, then stuffing their campaign coffers with nearly \$13 million. The prize, of course, is a nuclear waste dump in Nevada.

According to the study aptly titled, "The Nuclear Industry: A Cash Cow for Congress," pointed out that nearly \$10 million was given to House Members and \$3 million to Senators. Nevadans wonder what effect this money has had on the scientific study of Yucca Mountain's suitability as a nuclear waste repository. Does this money amount to hush money or is it just political contributions to pay off opposition? Should the industry's \$13 million not be better spent recycling this waste?

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1270. Government should make its decisions on sound science; not bank accounts.

WOMEN'S CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ADVOCATES ADEQUATE CHILD CARE

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, and that sounds kind of good, "Madam

Speaker," when 18 women established the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues in 1977, little did they realize that their brainchild would be the single most important tool for advancing issues most important to American women.

One of the most pressing issues that is facing women and families today, and as we move into the next century, is child care. I know this personally, having faced struggles in child care in just the last few months in moving in the Washington area and looking for quality child care for my two young girls.

Madam Speaker, finding child care for me was tough, but finding child care for low-income women and families, where a dollar spent on child care means a dollar less on food or rent, is even harder.

That is why I applaud the efforts of the Women's Congressional Caucus and the White House, which this week is holding a conference on child care, the first of its kind ever.

Mothers and families should not have to choose between work and adequate child care. That is why the Women's Caucus has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for quality child care.

OSHA AND MSHA SHOULD BE MERGED

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, last Congress I proposed legislation to merge two Federal workplace safety and health agencies, OSHA and MSHA, into a single agency. In my view, merging these two agencies would more effectively promote workplace safety. It would also help reduce Washington bureaucracy.

The Clinton administration strongly opposed my proposed merger. But after he criticized my plan to merge the agencies, the Clinton administration made the head of MSHA a part-time job. And 2½ years later, the Clinton administration still considers MSHA so important that the Acting Solicitor of Labor is running the agency in a couple of hours a week.

Madam Speaker, I am all for saving taxpayer money and combining Federal Government jobs where possible, but I am curious whether this sharing of top-level jobs might be part of a larger strategy. I know the Department of Labor has criticized companies in the past for filling too many lower level positions with part-time workers. Is the Clinton administration trying to turn the tables by putting part-timers in top positions?

Madam Speaker, how far will the administration carry this? Will the Attorney General be officially splitting time as a White House Press Secretary?

WHITE HOUSE MUST ACCEPT CHANGE IN BURDEN OF PROOF IN TAX DISPUTES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the White House is opposed to shifting the burden of proof from the taxpayer to the IRS. The White House wants to leave it alone, smack dab on the taxpayer.

The White House says it will cost too much. Unbelievable. The IRS accuses; the taxpayer must prove it. Could my colleagues imagine George Washington opposing the Bill of Rights over dollars and cents?

Shame, White House. Shame. As far as I am concerned, the White House will get the burden of proof change in a civil tax case one way or the other. They will either accept it with common sense and good logic, or they will get it as a stone cold congressional suppository.

Madam Speaker, I would tell them, "Make your choice, White House, and make our 1040. It is time to put the Bill of Rights back into the Tax Code. Audit this."

LIBERAL EDUCATION ADVOCATES ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam Speaker, it appears to me that the liberal thinkers who talk about education and always call for education standards are not to be taken seriously. These advocates for children, who proudly call themselves progressives, are the same people responsible for the outrageous academic fads in the classroom which have produced such terrible academic results in the first place.

Academic rigor gives way to emphasis on self-esteem. Merit is replaced by cooperative learning. Common sense, time-tested methods to teach kids how to spell correctly lose out to whole learning.

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Classrooms which challenge the gifted are scrapped for dumbed-down learning that cheat kids out of real education. Math that requires actual calculations yields to rain forest algebra that teaches no mathematical skills whatsoever, and so on and on. So before we listen to the progressives who are responsible for this deplorable state of affairs, let us consider instead whether a return to the basics and common sense learning methods are what is really needed.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, what do President Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Cokie Roberts, and the singing group, Sweet Honey in the Rock have in common? They are part of the all-star line up this evening when the Women's Caucus celebrates 20 years of incredible achievements for women and families.

Originally 15, we are now 50 strong. Almost all of the women of the House are Members. We are bipartisan and proud of it. At 7 tonight at Mellon Auditorium we will celebrate extraordinary legislative achievements that range from the Pregnancy Discrimination Act to the Family Medical and Leave Act. The Women's Caucus has given shape and focus to women's issues and we have a lot to show for it. Tonight, though, we will just show off.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I just attended the Congressional Gold Medal presentation ceremony in the rotunda of this building in which that was presented to His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church. It was a real honor to be there and be a Member of this House that made that possible in recognition for his leadership, not just as a religious leader, but as someone who is a defender of freedom around the world.

I decided to come here and just take this moment to draw attention to the people around our country that this has taken place and that we in this country are very, very fortunate to be able to speak freely of our religious beliefs and, yes, even the U.S. Government through the U.S. Congress recognizes the importance that religion plays in our world and certainly in our Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 5 p.m. today.

EMERGENCY STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2535) to amend the Higher

Education Act of 1965 to allow the consolidation of student loans under the Federal Family Loan Program and the Direct Loan Program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2535

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act of 1997".

(b) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

SEC. 2. LOAN CONSOLIDATION PROVISIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF LOANS ELIGIBLE FOR CONSOLIDATION.—Section 428C(a)(4) (20 U.S.C. 1078-3(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

"(C) made under part D of this title, except that loans made under such part shall be eligible student loans only for consolidation loans for which the application is received by an eligible lender during the period beginning on the date of enactment of the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act of 1997 and ending on October 1, 1998;"

(b) TERMS OF CONSOLIDATION LOANS.—Section 428C(b)(4)(C)(ii) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by inserting after "consolidation loan" the following: "for which the application is received by an eligible lender before the date of enactment of the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act of 1997, or on or after October 1, 1998,";

(2) by striking "or" at the end of subclause (I);

(3) by inserting "or (II)" before the semicolon at the end of subclause (II);

(4) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III); and

(5) by inserting after subclause (I) the following new subclause:

"(II) by the Secretary, in the case of a consolidation loan for which the application is received by an eligible lender on or after the date of enactment of the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act of 1997 and before October 1, 1998, except that the Secretary shall pay such interest only on that portion of the loan that repays Federal Stafford Loans for which the student borrower received an interest subsidy under section 428 or Federal Direct Stafford Loans for which the borrower received an interest subsidy under section 455; or"

(c) NONDISCRIMINATION IN LOAN CONSOLIDATION.—Section 428C(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) NONDISCRIMINATION IN LOAN CONSOLIDATION.—An eligible lender that makes consolidation loans under this section shall not discriminate against any borrower seeking such a loan—

"(A) based on the number or type of eligible student loans the borrower seeks to consolidate;

"(B) based on the type or category of institution of higher education that the borrower attended;

"(C) based on the interest rate that is authorized to be collected with respect to the consolidation loan; or

"(D) with respect to the types of repayment schedules offered to such borrower."

(d) INTEREST RATE.—Section 428C(c)(1) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subparagraph (A), by striking "(B) or (C)" and inserting "(B), (C), or (D)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) A consolidation loan for which the application is received by an eligible lender on or after the date of enactment of the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act of 1997 and before October 1, 1998, shall bear interest at an annual rate on the unpaid principal balance of the loan that is equal to the rate specified in section 427A(f), except that the eligible lender may continue to calculate interest on such a loan at the rate previously in effect and defer, until not later than April 1, 1998, the recalculation of the interest on such a loan at the rate required by this subparagraph if the recalculation is applied retroactively to the date on which the loan is made."

(e) AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE FOR PENDING APPLICANTS.—The consolidation loans authorized by the amendments made by this section shall be available notwithstanding any pending application by a student for a consolidation loan under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, upon withdrawal of such application by the student at any time prior to receipt of such a consolidation loan.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE REDUCTIONS.

Section 458(a)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1087h(a)(1)) is amended by striking "\$532,000,000" and inserting "\$507,000,000".

SEC. 4. TREATMENT OF TAX BENEFITS.

(a) FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FOR DEPENDENT STUDENTS.—

(1) PARENTS' AVAILABLE INCOME.—Section 475(c)(1) is amended—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (D);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(F) the amount of any tax credit taken by the parents under section 25A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986."

(2) STUDENT CONTRIBUTION FROM AVAILABLE INCOME.—Section 475(g)(2) is amended—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) the amount of any tax credit taken by the student under section 25A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986."

(b) FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Section 476(b)(1)(A) (20 U.S.C. 1087pp(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of clause (iv); and

(2) by inserting after clause (v) the following new clause:

"(vi) the amount of any tax credit taken under section 25A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and"

(c) FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Section 477(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1087qq(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (D);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(F) the amount of any tax credit taken under section 25A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986."

(d) TOTAL INCOME.—Section 480(a)(2) (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(a)(2)) is amended—