

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment, as modified, was agreed to, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 173

(Purpose: To make a technical correction to the fiscal year 1997 VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act concerning EPA State grants)

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have another amendment. It is a technical correction to the 1997 Veterans Administration and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill as it relates to EPA State and tribal assistance grant account.

The language in this amendment ensures that should the EPA be required to take over a State environmental program grant, funds otherwise provided to the State would be available to EPA for administering the program.

This language represents no change in policy or procedure, and is deemed by the committee to be a technical amendment to existing law. It is an amendment presented in behalf of the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. BOND.

Mr. President, I send the amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] for Mr. BOND, proposes an amendment numbered 173.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

In Title III, Chapter 10, add the following new section:

SEC. . The funds appropriated in Public Law 104-204 to the Environmental Protection Agency under the State and Tribal Assistance Grants Account for grants to states and federally recognized tribes for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement and related activities, \$674,207,000, may also be used for the direct implementation by the Federal government of a program required by law in the absence of an acceptable State or tribal program.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask for the adoption of the amendment.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. If there be no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 173) was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 174

(Purpose: To authorize the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the city of Bay City, Michigan, for environmental remediation, using funds previously appropriated for the Center for Ecology Research and Training)

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have another amendment which I shall send

to the desk. It authorizes the EPA to make grants from funds previously appropriated for an EPA lab in Bay City, MI, all but 11 of which were rescinded in 1995, to the city of Bay City for environmental remediation after all claims are settled from the funds that are available.

Mr. President, I send the amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] for Mr. BOND, for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. ABRAHAM, proposes an amendment numbered 174.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

In Title III, Chapter 10, add the following new section.

SEC. . After the period for filing claims pursuant to the Uniform Relocation Act is closed, and from amounts previously appropriated for the Center for Ecology Research and Training (CERT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall obligate the maximum amount of funds necessary to settle all outstanding CERT-related claims against it. To the extent that unobligated balances remain from such amounts previously appropriated, EPA is authorized beginning in fiscal year 1997 to make grants of such funds to the City of Bay City, Michigan, for the purpose of EPA-approved environmental remediation and rehabilitation of publicly owned real property included in the boundaries of the CERT project.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this is a technical amendment but does make available to the city of Bay City for environmental remediation the funds remaining available in the grant that was previously made.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I join with Senator LEVIN to introduce an amendment which will help close the door on the canceled Center for Ecology Research and Training [CERT], and end a difficult chapter for the city of Bay City, MI.

In the late 1980's, the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] was working to develop a new laboratory to study land and marine ecosystems. After much consideration, Bay City, MI, was ultimately chosen as the location for this facility, and Congress appropriated over \$100 million for the center's construction.

EPA, however, moved slowly on the CERT construction. After 5 years, only a small portion of the appropriated funds had been spent. Thus, CERT was still a long way from realization and became an easy target when the fiscal year 1996 rescission was considered. After considerable congressional debate, the project was canceled and almost all the remaining funds were rescinded.

Today, approximately \$5.2 million of the already appropriated funds remain. These moneys are set aside for the EPA to settle CERT-related claims. In addition, as part of the arrangement to set-

tle claims, EPA verbally agreed to direct the moneys remaining after all claims have been settled to the city of Bay City in the form of environmental grants. At present, however, there is no language which directs EPA to carry out this pledge, and if EPA is not given explicit direction, it will likely reprogram the funds. This language is needed, therefore, to instruct the EPA as to how the remaining funds will be spent.

The amendment offered by Senator LEVIN and me will permit Bay City to clean and restore the area to a level acceptable to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. President, this legislation is very important to Bay City. The loss of CERT was a great blow to the city. Bay City needs to heal the wound that is this promised but unfinished facility. It is my hope that this legislation will bring closure to this unfortunate affair.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there be no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 174) was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to reconsider and I move the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, those were amendments that were previously filed in the 110 that were filed for cloture. We have cleared those. We will clear amendments as they are brought to us if they are technical in nature, but those should be deleted from the amendments eligible for consideration after cloture.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I stated before that if we did not have a substantive amendment before the Senate before 5 o'clock, we would go into a period for morning business. After consultation with the leader, I announce that we will go into a period of morning business in just a few minutes. It will be the intention of the leadership to have a cloture vote at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow. We will proceed to see how we can move forward with this bill at that time.

It will be the policy of the leadership, and I support this policy, to not wait any longer for these amendments. There are too many side conferences going on, Mr. President, and there is no reason to wait all night for the possibility that we may have an amendment cleared for action this evening.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a

period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the leader will determine at a later time today the actual time of convening tomorrow. But I am reminded that Members should have their second-degree amendments, to the amendments that have already been filed, filed before the 9:30 a.m. vote tomorrow. I announce on behalf of the leadership, there will be no further votes today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SNOWE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, DR. ERNEST TOMASI

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, earlier this year, the Sunday Rutland Herald and Sunday Times Argus had an article about a fellow Montpelier neighbor, Dr. Ernest Tomasi. Dr. Tomasi was named the distinguished citizen of the year by the Montpelier Rotary Club.

Madam President, I have known Dr. Tomasi my whole life. And my parents knew him even before I did. He is a remarkable man, and probably one of the last examples of a country doctor, even though he has always practiced in our capital city.

Dr. Tomasi, a man very proud of his Italian heritage, as was my late mother, was one who would make sure that everybody who needed a physician received that physician's care.

So many times people would come to him telling him that they could not afford a doctor's care but needed a doctor's care. They always got it. It would be remarkable if somebody were able to tally up all the people of central Vermont who were cared for by him but never received a bill because they could not pay for it.

I also think of the number of times as a youngster seeing him going out making house calls, and then even in later years, even after I became a U.S. Senator, seeing Dr. Tomasi with his battered bag heading off for house calls.

It was my privilege to see him in 1994, when he went back for the 50th anniversary of D-Day. He had landed on Normandy as a young medic and, as he said, was one of the only ones who went ashore without guns. He also tells some pretty horrific stories of what happened to the people who were landing. It was a mark of his bravery that even though he earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and a Presidential Citation, this was never a part of his conversation, and only reluctantly did he go back for the 50th anniversary.

My wife and I had a chance to talk with him on different occasions while he was there. He was one of the brave,

brave people President Clinton and General Shalikashvili and others referred to at that celebration.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the article "Longtime Doctor Named Rotary's Citizen Of Year" be printed in the RECORD.

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

LONGTIME DOCTOR NAMED ROTARY'S CITIZEN OF YEAR

(By Art Edelstein)

Dr. Ernest Tomasi's medical office on Barre Street could well be the setting for a Norman Rockwell painting: The suite of rooms does not sparkle in medicinal white, there are no secretaries behind glass partitions, and the examining tables are from a bygone era.

But Tomasi can be forgiven the lack of high technology. Now semi-retired, he has practiced medicine locally for 50 years, delivering at least 1,000 babies. Along the way, he raised six of his own children, treated many patients without taking a fee and contributed to innumerable volunteer efforts.

His career has not gone unnoticed. Earlier this month, Tomasi received the Montpelier Rotary Club's Distinguished Citizen of the Year award for his many years of service to the community.

Tomasi, who turns 83 at the end of February, is a cheery man who doesn't boast about his formidable medical career and his years in the armed services.

"I think the fact that he has continued to practice medicine and is an old-style doctor interested in his patients first made him a great candidate," said Rotary President Roderic Sherman. "He is an outstanding example of good deeds."

"He has been providing services to anyone needing medical help for 50 years," said David Pinkham, who chaired the selection committee. "Dr. Tomasi provides services for barter, or free. He is an example of somebody doing something for others."

A Montpelier native, Tomasi graduated from St. Michael's high school on Barre Street, and from the University of Vermont medical school in 1942. After interning for a year in Waterbury, Conn., where he met his wife, he joined the U.S. Army.

Tomasi doesn't like to talk much about his role as a member of the D-Day invasion force that landed on the Normandy coast of France on June 6, 1944. He said his team of medics were brave men. "They were the only ones who went ashore without guns," he said.

Tomasi earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and the Presidential Citation.

Tomasi travelled back to France to celebrate the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994. The trip, paid for by his colleagues at the Central Vermont Hospital, brought back painful memories of his war years. "It was so horrible. I saw a lot of soldiers die," he said.

"I didn't want to go back to Omaha Beach; there were too many bad memories."

But there were some better memories of his tour of duty in Europe that he can smile about. In 1944, after the Allies began defeating the Germans, Tomasi and his unit liberated the first town on the German border near the Elbe River. There he delivered a baby girl. Years later he received a letter from that child when she became an adult.

"He doesn't talk much, especially about his trip to Europe in 1994," said his wife of 50 years, Barbara Tomasi. "He landed and all these boys around him were killed. Going back to the beach and cemetery were emotional."

While the war was an unpleasant experience, Tomasi did not shirk his responsibilities to his fellow veterans. He has been an active member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars and has served as the Post doctor for 30 years.

After the war, Tomasi returned to Montpelier to practice medicine. He has witnessed many changes in the medical profession in his half-century of practice.

"It's all changing too fast," he said. "I wish I could live long enough to see how it comes out."

A surgeon, he no longer performs operations but continues to assist in them.

Tomasi began scaling back on his practice in 1994. Before then, his wife said, he kept a grueling schedule.

"He would work from 8 in the morning until 11 or midnight with a supper break," she said. "He did this until three years ago when he cut back on patients. He still makes occasional house calls."

Adera White, a friend and former nurse, said Tomasi is a special doctor.

"Through medicine, he's done much. He would treat people and not get paid; for years he never sent bills to any of his patients," she said. "Whoever felt they could pay, paid him. He wasn't in it for the money, that's for sure."

While Tomasi said he is thinking about retiring from medicine, his wife doubts he will quit his life's work.

"This is the only thing he has; he is devoted to his patients," she said. "He loves sports, but never had any hobbies. * * * I don't think he will ever retire."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER "PEANUT" KENNEDY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Walter "Peanut" Kennedy, the late Speaker of the House of Representatives came from the district of Chelsea, VT. They used a version of Vermont's old mountain rule. In a local form, mountain rule came from the town's unwritten agreement that State representatives alternate between the sides of the mountain that divided the town at every biennial election. It was about as good a reason for term limits as many I have heard argued on this floor in recent years.

It followed the real mountain rule in Vermont which alternated Governors from one side of the Green Mountains to the other side. Madam President, the Governor would come from the eastern side of the mountains in one election cycle and then from the western side in the next. Of course, they were all Republicans so it worked out very well throughout those years.

Since the town was overwhelmingly Republican and the candidate from either side of the mountain could not hope to succeed under any other party preference—the tradition more or less held until reapportionment of the legislature along the one man-one vote decision of the U.S. Supreme Court changed the nature of Vermont's system forever.

I preface my remarks today with this brief history so that you can appreciate the background from which this rough hewn, shrewd, humorous, and eminently fair gentleman rose to become a legislator, Speaker of the