

(2) The study shall include the following:

(A) An analysis of potential solutions for mitigating or eliminating the need for members of the Armed Forces and their families to subsist at, near, or below the poverty level, including potential solutions involving changes in the systems and rates of basic allowance for subsistence, basic allowance for quarters, and variable housing allowance.

(B) Identification of the populations most likely to need income support under Federal Government programs, including—

(i) the populations living in areas of the United States where housing costs are notably high;

(ii) the populations living outside the United States; and

(iii) the number of persons in each identified population.

(C) The desirability of increasing rates of basic pay and allowances over a defined period of years by a range of percentages that provides for higher percentage increases for lower ranking personnel than for higher ranking personnel.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR PERSONNEL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—(1) Section 1060a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) FEDERAL PAYMENTS AND COMMODITIES.—For the purpose of obtaining Federal payments and commodities in order to carry out the program referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture shall make available to the Secretary of Defense the same payments and commodities as are made for the special supplemental food program in the United States under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786). Funds available for the Department of Defense may be used for carrying out the program under subsection (a).”.

(2) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report regarding the Secretary's intentions regarding implementation of the program authorized under section 1060a of title 10, United States Code, including any plans to implement the program.

WARNER AMENDMENT NO. 752

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 935, *supra*; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. 557. GRADE OF DEFENSE ATTACHÉ IN FRANCE.

The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall take actions appropriate to ensure that each officer selected for assignment to the position of defense attaché in France is an officer who holds, or is promotable to, the grade of brigadier general or, in the case of the Navy, rear admiral (lower half).

MURKOWSKI AMENDMENT. NO. 753

Mr. MURKOWSKI proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 936, *supra*; as follows:

At an appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. . REPORT ON OPTIONS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND AGENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than March 15, 1998, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the options available to the Department of Defense for

the disposal of chemical weapons and agents in order to facilitate the disposal of such weapons and agents without the construction of additional chemical weapons disposal facilities in the continental United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include the following:

(1) a description of each option evaluated;

(2) an assessment of the lifecycle costs and risks associated with each option evaluated;

(3) a statement of any technical, regulatory, or other requirements or obstacles with respect to each option, including with respect to any transportation of weapons or agents that is required for the option;

(4) an assessment of incentives required for sites to accept munitions or agents from outside their own locales, as well as incentives to enable transportation of these items across state lines;

(5) an assessment of the cost savings that could be achieved through either the application of uniform federal transportation or safety requirements and any other incentives consistent with the transportation and safe disposal of stockpile and nonstockpile chemical weapons and agents; and

(6) proposed legislative language necessary to implement options determined by the Secretary to be worthy of consideration by the Congress.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the nominations of Robert G. Stanton to be Director, National Park Service and Kneeland C. Youngblood to be a member of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation will be considered at the hearing scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

For further information, please call Camille Flint at (202) 224-5070.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place Tuesday, July 22, 1997, at 9 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to review the Department of the Interior's handling of the Ward Valley land conveyance, the findings of a new General Accounting Office [GAO] report on the issue, and to receive testimony on S. 964, the Ward Valley Land Transfer Act.

Those wishing to submit written statements should contact David Garman of the committee staff at (202) 224-8115.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding rural electric loan portfolio and electricity deregulation.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, at 2:15 p.m. in executive session, to consider the nomination of Gen. Wesley K. Clark, USA, to be Commander-in-Chief, U.S. European Command.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee special investigation to meet on Tuesday, July 8, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on campaign financing issues.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OVERSIGHT AND THE COURTS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing in room 226, Senate Dirksen Building, on: "Oversight of the administrative process for disposing of Government surplus parts and equipment."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the African Affairs Subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations to authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TASTY BAKING CO. OF PHILADELPHIA

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments of Senate business to give a special word of thanks to the Tasty Baking Co. for

its generosity to some very special inner-city children.

As many of my colleagues may recall, the Philadelphia Flyers recently faced the Detroit Red Wings in the Stanley Cup Finals. To make the game a bit more interesting, Senator ABRAHAM and I placed a friendly wager on the outcome. Unlike most interests in this series, the junior Senator from Michigan and I each picked a food donor and an inner-city school that would receive a complimentary party. If the Flyers lost, the Tasty Bakery agreed to donate 800 Tastykakes—400 to Warren G. Harding Elementary School in Detroit and 400 to William Penn High School in Philadelphia. If the Red Wings lost, Little Caesars Pizza would give a pizza party to both schools. Regardless of the outcome, the children stood to win.

Mr. President, I'm sorry to say that the Flyers did not bring the Stanley Cup back home to Pennsylvania. So, on June 16, the students of William Penn enjoyed their complimentary Tastykakes and Crazy Bread—which Little Caesars graciously donated despite the Red Wings' victory. Recently, the children of Warren G. Harding Elementary celebrated their victory party.

In closing, I would like to thank Little Caesars and the men and women at the Tasty Bakery for making these parties possible. I would particularly like to thank Kathleen Grim, Tasty Bakery's manager of community affairs, for coordinating this effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to the Tasty Bakery in Philadelphia, PA.●

SAFER SCHOOLS ACT OF 1997

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support legislation introduced by Senator BYRON DORGAN and myself—the Safer Schools Act of 1997—which will ensure that students who bring guns to school can be suspended.

This legislation was originally introduced late last session in reaction to a startling ruling by an appellate court in New York that said a student should not have been suspended from school because the weapon he was carrying was uncovered during a search without a warrant.

We have reached a crisis in this country—a crisis which makes it difficult for parents to see their children off to school in the morning, for fear they will never see them again.

Each day in America, it is estimated that 100,000 guns are brought into American schools. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 2 in 25 high school students, or 7.9 percent, report having carried a gun in the last 30 days. In Los Angeles, according to an ACLU survey conducted earlier this year, 49 percent of high school students said they have seen a weapon in school, many of them guns.

In response to these types of alarming figures, Senator DORGAN and I introduced the Gun Free Schools Act in 1994 to set a zero-tolerance policy to keep America's schools gun-free. The goal of this legislation was to remove firearms from all public schools in the United States.

Although we still have a way to go to make all schools gun-free, this zero-tolerance policy is working to make our schools safer. A preliminary report recently released from the U.S. Department of Education provides irrefutable proof that this law is well on its way toward meeting this important goal. I am told that a full report on all the States will be due out sometime later this summer.

The Gun Free Schools Act has been responsible for the expulsions of more than 6,276 students in 29 States caught during the 1995-96 school year for trying to carry guns to school. This means there were 6,276 fewer opportunities for a child to be killed or injured by gunfire at school in the United States. According to the California Department of Education, there were 1,039 firearms-related expulsions in public schools in California during this same period. The entire State of California has 1,043 school districts. Amazingly, this translates into an average of one expulsion for every district in my State.

Today, each and every one of the 50 States and the District of Columbia have complied with the Gun Free Schools Act by passing laws requiring schools to expel—for at least 1 year—students who are caught carrying a gun.

But the ruling of an appellate court in New York threatens to undermine the progress we have made in setting a zero-tolerance policy for guns in schools.

The appellate court in this particular case applied the same evidentiary standards that apply to criminal proceedings in what was a school disciplinary action. The school, however, refused to lift the student's suspension and as a result, their action was upheld by the State Court of Appeals.

Mr. President, I believe that common sense was cast aside with the appellate court ruling. Incredibly, what the appellate court's decision said was that this student should not have been expelled from school and that his record should be expunged from any wrongdoing in the case.

Our legislation states very clearly that the exclusionary rule should not be applied in school disciplinary proceedings. What the legislation says is that you cannot exclude a gun as evidence in a disciplinary action in school.

This common-sense legislation does not violate the constitutional rights of children. This bill does not exonerate school officials who conduct unreasonable or unlawful searches and persons who have been aggrieved will have every right to pursue judicial or statutory remedies available.

The Safer Schools Act of 1997 will prevent kids who do bring a gun to school from slipping through a school's reasonable disciplinary process.

Fortunately, last September's court ruling that a gun can be excluded from use as evidence in an internal school disciplinary proceeding was ultimately reversed. But a similar ruling could be made in another State.

This legislation would send a clear signal that guns have no place in the hands of our children or in the hallways and classrooms of their schools. All children should be able to go to school without fearing for their safety.

This legislation also would say to school administrators throughout the Nation that it is perfectly legitimate to conduct a disciplinary proceeding in cases where a student has brought a gun to school. The schools can conduct a fair and reasonable proceeding that allows them to ensure the safety of their school grounds.

The bottom line is that the Gun Free Schools Act has helped reduce the threat of guns from our Nation's schools. With the Safer Schools Act of 1997, we give school officials and teachers much needed flexibility to ensure that America's schools are safe havens so that children can escape the violence that engulfs so many of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.●

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE'S 368TH ENGINEER BATTALION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to New Hampshire's 368th Engineer Battalion as they celebrate their 50th anniversary at a gala celebration in Manchester on July 19th.

Mr. President, I wish to honor the nearly 1,000 men and women of New Hampshire's 368th Engineer Battalion who are known as much for their efforts in international peace building campaigns as their wartime readiness. They have earned an enviable reputation from their community action projects that include building roads, bridges, schools, hospitals to disaster relief projects.

The 368th Engineer Battalion was formed in 1947 from engineer and heavy maintenance units. The battalion has been headquartered in Concord and Manchester and they have also had units in Laconia, Rochester, Gilford, West Lebanon, NH, as well as White River Junction, VT, and Attleboro and Danvers, MA.

The 368th Battalion has made a substantial contribution to the quality of life for residents of the Granite State. The Engineer Battalion has developed disaster relief models for such disasters as the recent Alton, NH dam breach where the unit played a critical role in clearing flood debris, stabilizing erosion and restoring local transportation facilities for the residents of the small