

that United States citizens held in prisons in Peru are accorded timely, open, and fair legal proceedings in civilian courts.

LIMIT AID TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CONGO UNTIL
PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION

SEC. 596. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be provided to the Government of Congo until such time as the President reports in writing to the Congress that the Government of Congo is cooperating fully with investigators from the United Nations or any other international relief organizations in accounting for human rights violations or atrocities committed in Congo or adjacent countries.

Titles I through V of this Act may be cited as the "Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I see the chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the Chamber. I just want to make the point that I think we must have achieved some kind of record here in light of, in 3 days, having passed four bills. I congratulate him on his leadership, which has pushed us in that direction very skillfully.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I congratulate the two managers of this bill, Senator MCCONNELL and Senator LEAHY, for accomplishing almost the impossible—to have the foreign assistance bill passed in this manner.

We had a meeting at the beginning of this year when I became chairman and talked about trying to have a program of crisis avoidance, and this is a good example of it. These two Senators have worked with all Members who had amendments and tried to accommodate them, at least dealt with most of them, and the result is on the floor being able to pass this bill, and it is a great bill. What was the final vote?

Mr. MCCONNELL. It was 91 to 8.

Mr. STEVENS. I can remember the days when this bill was filibustered for days and days and days. It is really a tribute to the two managers for having accomplished this, and I congratulate them very much.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if the Senator from Alaska will yield, I say for my colleagues one of the joys of the Appropriations Committee is that there are a lot of senior Members on both sides of the aisle who are used to working with each other to build the kind of personal relationships that are necessary. I cherish my own friendship with the Senator from Alaska and the Senator from Kentucky. We have worked together on a lot of different pieces of legislation, not just this one but a lot of others, and I think we understand there are certain things that can be done and certain things that cannot be done, and we go for the possible.

I note that this is a record, and I commend the Senator from Kentucky for getting it through so rapidly. But it is a case, again, I would say to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who sat down with us and tried to give us leeway, a realistic schedule,

of the ability to work out many things even before they got to the floor.

I have been both a manager and the ranking member of a lot of pieces of legislation. What has been happening with the appropriations bills is a model of the way it should be done—move them, move them quickly. People have an issue; vote on it and move on to the next thing. The Senate is better served. The country is better served.

I commend my two colleagues for their help.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I, too, thank my good friend, PAT LEAHY, for his marvelous cooperation and also extend my thanks to Steve Cortese, director of the full committee, who has been a joy to work with, and Tim Rieser of Senator LEAHY's staff and, of course, long-time foreign policy adviser, now staff director of the subcommittee, Robin Cleveland, and Billy Piper and Will Smith, who have done yeoman service and outstanding work on this. I thank them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I also want to compliment Robin Cleveland and Will Smith of the committee staff and Billy Piper of Senator MCCONNELL's staff, and, of course, as he has already mentioned, Tim Rieser of my staff, who has done so much on this, Emily East from the appropriations staff; Lesley Carson, who is a Javits scholar with the appropriations subcommittee; Dick D'Amato, a long-time member of the appropriations staff, and John Rosenwasser from the Budget Committee. There is an awful lot that goes on among staff to make this possible. We do not have the expertise of the staff. We cannot move a bill this quickly no matter how hard we Senators may try, and I commend the staff on both sides of the aisle in this case.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

COMMENDATION OF GEN. BARRY
MCCAFFREY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, during the consideration of the foreign operations appropriations bill yesterday, I offered an amendment along with Senator MCCAIN on the drug certification issue. During the course of that debate, some references were made to Gen. Barry McCaffrey that I thought were unfortunate and incorrect.

JOHN MCCAIN, our colleague from Arizona, rightly stood up and pointed out that Barry McCaffrey, whatever one's views may have been on the certification issue, enjoys, I think, without any question, the tremendous confidence of the Members of this body. We may disagree on various policy issues. I wanted to associate myself with Senator MCCAIN's remarks and express my gratitude to General McCaffrey for taking on this job, one of the most difficult jobs in Government, that is, to be the drug czar.

Mr. President, I wanted to express my confidence, and I am confident the

confidence of my colleagues, in Barry McCaffrey. This is a very difficult job he has taken on. It is tremendously complex. It is obviously a source of great, great disturbance in this country to watch the ever-increasing proliferation of illegal drugs, and obviously there is a domestic feature to this and there is an international feature to it. His job is not an easy one and he has to deal with people all over the globe. I think he does so with a great deal of integrity, seriousness, and forthrightness. He has been tremendously responsive to those of us up here on Capitol Hill who care about this issue.

I thank Senator MCCAIN for his remarks yesterday and associate myself, as I said, with those remarks, and once again express my high degree of confidence in the General and my appreciation as well for the work he has done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I know my colleague from Iowa wants to speak and my colleague from Arkansas. Could I just for a moment ask unanimous consent that an intern, Mara Davis, be allowed to be in the Chamber today.

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

Mr. BUMPERS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate has an order to go to a bill at 11:30.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted—I know the Senator from Ohio wants to introduce a bill, and I do not want to delay that—but I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for 5 minutes in morning business.

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

DETERIORATION OF U.S.
NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, one of the truly great ideas that somebody came up with back in 1872 was to establish the first national park. Ulysses Grant was President. Unhappily, that same year Ulysses Grant signed a bill called the mining law of 1872. But back to the point. President Grant established the first national park in this Nation. It has been a source of pride and usage and a great deal of euphoria for America's people ever since. We in the Senate and in the House profess our undying commitment to a National Park System second to none while we have routinely starved the park system to death.

Now, US News and World Report, on top of report after report that has been issued over the past 10 to 15 years, in the current July 21 edition, has an article which I recommend to every Member of the Senate called "Parks in Peril". "The national parks have been called the best America had. But their wild beauty and historical treasures are rapidly deteriorating"—repeat, rapidly deteriorating—"from lack of funds, pollution, encroaching development, overcrowding and congressional indifference."

Mr. President, these parks are being encroached on by development; they are being stifled by pollution. On any given day in the winter, the pollution at Yellowstone National Park from snowmobiles alone is equal to the smog in Washington, DC. And the infrastructure is falling down. Buildings are rotting, buildings are decaying, and some of the treasures such as Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, some of those ancient ruins, are falling down for lack of money to restore them.

All this time, Mr. President, we allow the mining companies, the biggest mining companies in the world, to buy Federal lands for \$2.50 an acre, take billions of dollars of gold off those lands and not pay the taxpayers of America one red cent. That is money that alone could reverse the deterioration of our National Park Service. We have grazing laws in this country which are just short of scandalous, in which we allow some of the biggest corporations in America to lease grazing lands from BLM for a song. And one of the worst tragedies of all is that we have a concessions policy where we allow the concession stands at national parks to be handed down from generation to generation. You cannot take one away from a concessionaire under existing law.

Mr. President, the return now to the Park Service on concessions is about 6 percent. About the only park we have in our system with a concession, which was let 3 years ago on a competitive basis, is Yosemite, and last year Yosemite, the only park that has a concession policy that was competitively let, produced 37 percent. That one park produced 37 percent of all the return the Park Service got for all its concessions.

We had a bill here that I sponsored that passed the Senate 99 to zip, went over to the House and died. If you were to pass another one today 99 to zip, it would probably go to the House and die, because this suits the policy of too many Members of Congress while our Park System deteriorates.

I strongly recommend everybody read this. The polls consistently show that the people of this country are upset because we tolerate some of the kinds of corporate welfare I just described—rich people, the biggest corporations in the world, not paying their way. And oftentimes, because of the way we finance campaigns in this country, we can't stop it or do any-

thing about it. Our priorities are terribly skewed when we allow some of these things to continue while the national parks, the greatest treasury we possess in this country, decline. We just passed a defense bill, \$268 billion, and not an enemy in sight. There is not an enemy in sight; \$268 billion, and we had one rollcall vote. I can remember when that bill would take 2 weeks to pass.

So, Mr. President, I speak with a great deal of passion this morning because I chaired the National Parks Subcommittee for many years, and I did everything I could to reverse the policy that was so patently obvious to me back then, years ago, that we were neglecting our national parks and we were going to pay a price for it. One thing we have done is, while we added a lot of parks, we have never added any funding. We are either going to have to fish or cut bait. We either have to get rid of parks, which I don't think anybody in this body favors, or we are going to have to fund them. And finally, the last alternative is watch them fall apart before our eyes to the chagrin, dismay, disappointment, and outright animosity of the American people for our indifference and negligence to our National Park System.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Will the Senator yield? I was hoping to have a little discussion with the Senator. What is the time situation, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At this time there is no limitation on debate.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I know there is a Senator waiting here, but I would just like to ask my friend about the national parks, if he would respond. I can remember so well, I helped, worked with, President Eisenhower for what we called Mission 66, a 10-year period to improve the parks. I think, if the Senator would look at that period, at the end of 1966 the parks were in the best condition they have been since the turn of the century. Since that time, the vision of the Park Service has been to add acreage to the parks. Today we see the parks in the worst condition they have been in in my lifetime. Maintenance of the parks, the accumulated maintenance that has been deferred, is just overwhelming. I think it would take the total annual appropriation of the Park Service to catch up just on deferred maintenance at the historic park sites, Yosemite, Yellowstone, and all of those that are in the south 48.

But my question to the Senator is, we have now almost 80 percent of the land that is in the Park Service in my State and we have about 1 percent of the Park Service money. I don't think anyone has looked at what has happened to the parks, in terms of this rush to add acreage to the parks instead of maintaining discrete park areas that are absolutely beautiful and need to be preserved.

One of my predecessors, Senator Gruening, introduced a bill to establish

parks in the State of Alaska. I did, too. Those parks that we sought were ignored and, instead, we have vast areas of parks that are out there. All they have in them is Park Service employees, accommodation for Park Service employees, no roads into them, no airports in them, but they are listed as national parks.

I ask you, if there is to be a rational park system in the country, don't you think we ought to have accessibility to areas that are set aside as national parks? Don't you think we ought to be concentrating now on maintaining the parks that are there so visitors can use them?

The answer now to people who are in charge of the parks is to close the parks, to limit the number of people that go into the parks because the maintenance is so bad that they think the people coming in the parks will now destroy them. I agree, maintenance is very bad. But parks are for people, I thought.

I would like to have the Senator speak up. I do hope one of these days we can have a long discussion about the National Park System and how it has changed. It has changed to people who want to control land from people who want to preserve the very best and most beautiful portions of our country, and that disturbs me greatly.

Mr. BUMPERS. Let me say, I could not agree with the Senator more, and I also say some of the damage that is occurring in the National Park System is not just to the infrastructure; that is, the buildings, which can be replaced and repaired. Some of the irreversible damage is being done to the natural beauty of the national parks, which cannot be undone. I could not agree more with the Senator that we have added a lot of land. I am not saying we did it wrongly. I am not saying we were in error when we did it. I am saying we can do both. We can have an expanded park system and we can fund it. If the American people understand anything, in my opinion, it is our skewed priorities here, what we spend money for.

If you were to take a poll—not ask for an extemporaneous response, but say, "Which of the following do you consider the most important?" I dare say the National Park System and the maintenance of it for the enjoyment of all the American people would rank very near the top. We simply have not made a commitment.

You recall under President George Bush we did a very extensive study on the National Park System, and they came back and said it would take—that has been 8 years ago, a little over, about 8 years ago—they said it would take \$2 billion just to start doing the infrastructure. That had nothing to do with adding lands or anything else. They said, in order to bring our parks up to par right now—that was 8 years ago with 8 years of inflation added to it now—it would take \$2 billion.

As I say, everybody loves the parks. Everybody in the Senate, everybody in

the House, would profess their undying love for the National Park System, but we simply are not putting the money where our mouth is.

That is the only point I want to make this morning, and that is the point this article makes in U.S. News & World Report. I see the distinguished Senator who is now the chairman of the same committee I mentioned I chaired for many years. I will be happy to yield to him.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask the Senator if he is aware that the subcommittee is now in the process of seeking to put together a plan, a long-term plan? All of us who understand that parks and their resources are one of the most valuable resources that we have, that there are troublesome things happening and frankly there is no plan in place and we need to have one—we need to talk about finances. There needs to be some additional resources for finances in addition to the appropriations. We need to talk about how we do some bonding, how we do some private investment, how we do some other kinds of things. In addition, we need to talk about the concessionaires. We need to get that straightened out so it moves. We need to talk, frankly, about the management of the parks so we have a plan that has measurable results so the plans that are set for the Nation will also be applied in the parks. And we have invited the administration to participate.

Fortunately, this morning we have a nominee for the Park Service. We have not had a Park Service Director. So I want to assure the Senator that there is underway an effort to basically reform and move forward and, also, I forgot to say, to have something that defines more clearly what kind of a park is appropriate to be part of the National System so we are not taking in what is more appropriately local recreation areas to be managed by the National Park Service.

So I couldn't share more the concerns that people have, but I wanted to tell my colleague that we are moving forward with that and intend to have a plan before this Congress by the end of the year.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Senator very much. I do not want to take any more time of the Senator.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I wonder if I could ask, colleagues have been involved in an important discussion. I think they probably would want to go on more, but I know Senator DEWINE and I want to introduce a bill. We thought we might have a little more time. I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended for an additional 15 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. STEVENS. Would the Senator repeat his request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I asked unanimous consent that morning business—

we were hoping we would be able to introduce a bill and talk about it a little while. Given the important discussion that took place, I asked whether or not we could extend 10 minutes beyond what we had originally planned for morning business.

Mr. DEWINE. That would be 11:40.

Mr. STEVENS. May I inquire, how many Senators are involved?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Senator DEWINE and I wanted to introduce a bill. This would give us altogether maybe 15 minutes between two people.

Mr. STEVENS. I will not object if it's just 10 minutes past the half-hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DEWINE and Mr. WELLSTONE pertaining to the introduction of S. 1029 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Does the Senator yield back any time he might have?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I do.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask that we proceed with the regular order.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report S. 1023.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1023) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, my colleague, Senator KOHL, and I are bringing before the Senate today the Senate Appropriations Committee recommendation for the fiscal year 1998 appropriations for the Department of the Treasury, U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies. The bill we are presenting today contains a total funding of \$25,206,539,000. This is \$1,104,116,000 more than the fiscal year 1997 level, and \$455,866,000 less than the President's request. We are recommending a total of \$12,321,339,000 in discretionary spending and \$12,885,100,000 for mandatory programs over which this subcommittee has no control.

Reaching this level has not been an easy task, and I certainly thank Senator KOHL, who has yet to arrive on the floor, for his hard work and continuing support and advice as we put this bill together.

Mr. President, this bill includes \$11,315,801,000 for the Department of the Treasury. As my colleagues are aware, the Department of the Treasury has a wide range of responsibilities directed not only at the revenues and expenditures of the Government, but law enforcement functions as well.

The Treasury Department is responsible for 40 percent of all Federal law enforcement, and adequate funding for this function has been a priority for both Senator KOHL and myself. The subcommittee has done what we can to ensure that law enforcement agencies funded in this bill have the resources to do the job that we asked them to do in the so-called war against crime. In addition, we have provided a total of \$131 million in the violent crime reduction trust fund. This is \$12.7 million more than requested by the President and \$34 million more than provided in fiscal year 1997.

This bill includes \$121,124,000 for payments to the U.S. Postal Service to reimburse them for providing free mail for the blind and for overseas voters and for payment to the Department of Labor for disability costs incurred by the old Post Office Department.

The Executive Office of the President and funds appropriated to the President total \$485,225,000. This includes the Office of Drug Control Policy.

As many of our colleagues know, the bill includes the administration's proposal for a 1-year moratorium on new construction projects through the General Services Administration Federal Buildings Fund. It is unfortunate, when we need so many renovations on courthouses, that the GSA calculation of rent income to the Federal building fund has been so inaccurate in the past years that we are at a point where there is just barely enough money to continue ongoing projects.

There is also \$12.7 billion in mandatory payments through the Office of Personnel Management for annuitants' life and health insurance, as well as retirement benefits.

There has been considerable discussion over the past couple of years about the funding level for the Internal Revenue Service. Many of us are very disturbed that significant amounts of money, over \$4 billion, was wasted on the tax modernization system. As a result, we have very carefully reviewed the budget request from the IRS. We believe that the IRS should have sufficient resources to maintain and even increase customer service levels, and there must be enough to continue efforts to collect taxes due. As a result, we have proposed appropriations at the level requested by the President for the three permanent accounts. However, we did not agree to the President's request for an advance appropriation of \$500 million to set up an account for future computer modernization efforts.

Although the IRS has developed and circulated a modernization blueprint, that is only a first good step. It was the judgment of the subcommittee that