

proud the Senator from Ohio was once my constituent when he made the historic trip into space—that was really the beginning of our space program—and made us all so proud that we really could conquer space. What we have learned and what we have done for quality of life and for health research since his first foray into space has been, perhaps, more than even he could have dreamed would happen.

I am very proud he is a supporter of the space station and the NASA Program and knows that what he did in the beginning is certainly not the end and certainly, I hope, we can continue the legacy that he has left for us.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I believe the leader is going to be here shortly to discuss the voting schedule for tonight. I know votes were scheduled to begin at 5:15, but pending the arrival of the majority leader, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1023, the Treasury-Postal Service bill.

The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

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

Pending:

Campbell (for DeWine) amendment No. 936, to prohibit the use of funds to pay for an abortion or pay for the administrative expenses in connection with certain health plans that provide coverage for abortions.

Kohl (for Bingaman) amendment No. 937, to strike provisions prohibiting the use of appropriated funds for the sole source procurement of energy conservation measures.

Campbell (for Coverdell-Feinstein) amendment No. 940, to provide that Federal employees convicted of certain bribery and drug-related crimes shall be separated from service.

Campbell (for Coverdell) amendment No. 941, to require a plan for the coordination and consolidation of the counterdrug intelligence centers and activities of the United States.

Campbell (for Hatch) amendment No. 942, to provide for a national media campaign focused on preventing youth drug abuse.

Hutchison amendment No. 943, to establish parity among the countries that are parties to the North American Free Trade Agreement with respect to the personal allowance for duty-free merchandise purchased abroad by returning residents.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT-AGREEMENT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcalls not take place as ordered.

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

Mr. STEVENS. For the information of all Senators, a number of votes were scheduled to occur beginning at 5:15 today. Over the weekend, and most of today, the managers of the Treasury appropriations bill have been working to resolve those outstanding amendments, and it now appears that the Campbell amendment offered on behalf of Senator DEWINE regarding abortion funds and passage are the only remaining votes that need to occur with respect to the Treasury Appropriations bill. There may also be a Bingaman amendment, but we are not clear about that yet.

As many Members are aware, the U.S.S. *Constitution* made its maiden voyage as a refurbished symbol of America's proud past today on the waters off Massachusetts. However, the ceremonies surrounding this event were delayed. Consequently, several of our Members will not be returning in time for the vote.

Therefore, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall votes scheduled to occur today now be postponed to begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22. Obviously, needless to say, there will be no rollcall votes that will occur in today's session, but there will be some further matters.

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

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

#### DATA ACCESS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, before this body passes the Treasury and general government appropriation bill for fiscal year 1998, I would like to raise an important issue concerning how the Government develops policies and regulations. The issue is the public's right to have access to the data that is produced from Government funded studies and used to support regulatory rulemakings. As you may know, the Federal Government does not have a standardized process for making research data available for independent review. Often the public is forced to comply with costly regulations without the assurance that the data underlying the rules has been made available for independent scientific evaluation. If the Government is going to force the public to comply with its rules, the public must have confidence that the rules are based on sound science. Similarly, if the Government is going to provide funding for research, the public should be able to access the data that is produced from such research. Unfortunately, the Government does not have a disclosure policy on research data. I believe this undermines the scientific basis of our rulemaking and erodes the public's confidence in the Government's regulatory development

process. I would like to ask my colleague from Colorado, the chairman of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, if he would be willing to work with me to correct this problem.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank my colleague from Oklahoma for raising this important issue. The fact that this data is not now made available only adds to the public's mistrust of Government. I look forward to working with you to develop an appropriate solution.

Mr. NICKLES. I thank the Senator for his support on this issue.

#### NEWPORT, IRS HIRING WAIVER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to seek clarification on report language which the subcommittee was good enough to include in the Treasury and general government appropriations bill. That report language urges the Internal Revenue Service to approve a waiver from internal hiring requirements for the Newport IRS office if a planned reduction in force [RIF] does not result in those positions being filled.

The Newport IRS office is one of two national centers that process SS 8 forms and has earned a high reputation for efficiency and excellence. To handle its increased responsibilities, the office has been trying to fill a number of lower level positions ranging from GS 3-5. Current IRS regulations require that these positions be filled internally. While Newport is a beautiful Vermont town, it is also extremely remote, and the office has been unable to fill such low-level positions from within the existing IRS personnel. These new personnel are needed to continue Newport's exemplary record in processing SS 8 forms.

The committee report also includes a provision, which I strongly support, directing the IRS to continue to delay its planned field reduction in force until it submits another report to Congress with a detailed plan on how the IRS will ensure adequate taxpayer service in the future, especially in rural areas. I share the concerns outlined in the committee report about how taxpayer service will be affected by the planned reorganization, especially in rural areas like Vermont. As a result of this language, the RIF which IRS had planned for July 7 will not be going forward. My understanding is that in the absence of this RIF, the committee intends for IRS to move forward immediately with its approval for the Newport hiring waiver. Is that correct?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, the Senator from Vermont is correct. The Senate report clearly states that if the July RIF did not address the employment shortage at the Newport IRS office, that the Service should move forward with the waiver. Because that RIF will be delayed for some time, IRS should move forward immediately with the Newport hiring waiver.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator from Colorado, and I appreciate his clarification of this language.

## AMENDMENT NO. 943

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask that Senators KYL, MCCAIN, GRAMM, BINGAMAN, and BOXER be added as cosponsors to my amendment.

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I am pleased that I was able to work with Secretary Rubin and Ambassador Barshefsky's staff on this amendment. I am confident that they will use this directive from Congress to make progress—in the spirit of NAFTA—to correct the personal duty-free allowance inequity. I hope that it can be passed by unanimous consent when it is brought to the floor.

Mr. President, my amendment addresses the disparities that exist in the personal duty-free exemption's of the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The United States provides each United States resident who is returning from Mexico and Canada with a personal exemption from duty on merchandise valued at up to \$400 once every 30 days. This is the same duty exemption every U.S. citizen is afforded when they return to the United States from any country. Mexico, however, has a two-tiered duty-free allowance structure. If you are a Mexican resident and live within 25 kilometers of the border, when you return to Mexico at a land border crossing, you may only return with \$50 in duty-free merchandise. This has become known as the \$50 rule, and it is crippling businesses on the U.S. side of the border in Texas, California, New Mexico, and Arizona. If you are a Mexican resident bringing more than \$50 in merchandise, you must pay a 22.8-percent duty rate.

This rule, Mr. President, makes it prohibitively expensive for a Mexican resident to purchase a washing machine, refrigerator, electronics, furniture, or any item costing more than \$50 in the United States. In U.S. border communities, countless small businesses have closed their doors and thousands of American jobs have been lost. Our larger retailers are also suffering, as Mexicans who used to travel across the border for goods are now limited to purchasing them on their side of the border.

Mr. President, my amendment is very simple. It directs the United States Trade Representative and Secretary of the Treasury to begin discussions with their counterparts in Mexico and Canada to achieve parity in the duty-free allowance structure of the three NAFTA countries. These officials will report to Congress within 90 days on the progress they are making to correct these disparities. If the situation remains unchanged, in 6 months these officials will propose appropriate legislation and action to bring the United States duty-free allowance into conformance with the allowance levels established by Mexico and Canada.

Mr. President, this is an important issue for my constituents, and I look forward to this amendment's adoption.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of S. 1023, the Treasury and general Government appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998.

This bill provides new budget authority of \$25.2 billion and new outlays of \$22.3 billion to finance operations of the Department of the Treasury, including the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Customs Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Fi-

nancial Management Service; as well as the Executive Office of the President, the Office of Personnel Management, the General Services Administration, and other agencies that perform central Government functions.

I congratulate the chairman and ranking member for producing a bill that is within the subcommittee's 602(b) allocation and generally consistent with the bipartisan balanced budget agreement. I also commend the chairman for his strong support for law enforcement, including the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

When outlays from prior-year BA and other adjustments are taken into account, the bill totals \$25.3 billion in BA and \$25.1 billion in outlays. The total bill is below the Senate subcommittee's 602(b) nondefense discretionary allocation for budget authority by \$4 million and at its allocation for outlays. The subcommittee is also at its violent crime reduction trust fund allocation for BA and under its allocation for outlays by \$15 million.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a table displaying the Budget Committee scoring of S. 1023, as reported by the Senate.

I urge Members to support the bill and to refrain from offering amendments that would cause the subcommittee to exceed its 602(b) allocation. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of S. 1023, the Treasury, Postal Service, and general Government appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998.

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

## S. 1023, TREASURY-POSTAL APPROPRIATIONS, 1998—SPENDING COMPARISONS, SENATE-REPORTED BILL

(Fiscal year 1998, in millions of dollars)

	Defense	Nondefense	Crime	Mandatory	Total
Senate-reported bill:					
Budget authority .....	—	12,464	131	12,713	25,308
Outlays .....	—	12,269	112	12,712	25,093
Senate 602(b) allocation:					
Budget authority .....	—	12,468	131	12,713	25,312
Outlays .....	—	12,269	127	12,712	25,108
President's request:					
Budget authority .....	—	12,848	118	12,713	25,679
Outlays .....	—	12,388	105	12,712	25,205
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority .....	—	—	—	—	—
Outlays .....	—	—	—	—	—
Senate-Reported Bill Compared To					
Senate 602(b) allocation:					
Budget authority .....	—	(4)	—	—	(4)
Outlays .....	—	—	(15)	—	(15)
President's request:					
Budget authority .....	—	(384)	13	—	(371)
Outlays .....	—	(119)	7	—	(112)
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority .....	—	12,464	131	12,713	25,308
Outlays .....	—	12,269	112	12,712	25,093

Note.—Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with current scorekeeping conventions.

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). The Senator from Colorado.

## MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 921

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 921, adopted previously, be modified and I send that modification to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

The modification is as follows:

At the conclusion of line 1 on page 1, insert Amendment 922; and

On page 1, strike lines 2 and all that follows through line 21 on page 3 and insert the following in its place.

**SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING IMPORTS OF FISH TAKEN OR RETAINED IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS.**

It is the Sense of the Senate that the United States, as a signatory to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, should implement as fully as possible the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

It is the Sense of the Senate that fish taken and retained in a manner and under circumstances that are inconsistent with the recommendations of the ICCAT made pursuant to article VIII of the Convention and adopted by the Secretary of Commerce should be prohibited entry into the United States.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 942 AND 943, AS MODIFIED

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that amendments Nos. 942 and 943 be modified, and I send those modifications to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

The amendments (Nos. 942 and 943), as modified, are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 942, AS MODIFIED

At page 47, starting at line 18, strike all to page 48, line 1 at "Provided".

In lieu thereof, insert "troll Policy, submits a strategy to the Committees on Appropriations and Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate that includes (1) a certification, and guidelines to ensure that funds will supplement and not supplant current anti-drug community based coalitions; (2) a certification, and guidelines to ensure that none of the funds will be used for partisan political purposes; (3) a certification, and guidelines to ensure that no media campaigns to be funded pursuant to this campaign shall feature any elected officials, persons seeking elected office, cabinet-level officials, or other Federal officials employed pursuant to Schedule C of 5 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 213, absent notice to the Chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and Judiciary; (4) a detailed implementation plan to be submitted to the Chairmen and ranking members of the Committees on Appropriations and Judiciary for securing private sector contributions including but not limited to in kind contributions; (5) a detailed implementation plan to be submitted to the Chairmen and ranking members of the Committees on Appropriations and Judiciary of the qualifications necessary for any organization, entity, or individual to receive funding for or otherwise provided broadcast media time.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 943, AS MODIFIED

At the appropriate place, insert the following new section:

#### SEC. . PERSONAL ALLOWANCE PARITY AMONG NAFTA PARTIES.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall initiate discussions with officials of the Governments of Mexico and Canada to achieve parity in the duty-free personal allowance structure of the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

(b) REPORT.—The United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury shall report to Congress within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act on the progress that is being made to correct any disparity between the United States, Mexico, and Canada with respect to duty-free personal allowances.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—If parity with respect to duty-free personal allowances between the United States, Mexico, and Canada is not achieved within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit recommendations to Congress for appropriate legislation and action.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 940; 941; 942, AS MODIFIED; AND 943, AS MODIFIED

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that amend-

ments Nos. 940, 941, 942, as modified and 943, as modified, be adopted, en bloc, and that the motion to reconsider the vote on the adoption of those amendments be laid upon the table.

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

The amendments (Nos. 940 and 941) and (Nos. 942 and 943), as modified, were agreed to, en bloc.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 940

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, we have accepted amendment No. 940, but I do want to mention that we may need to fine-tune it in conference. The reason is that, as currently drafted, the proposal is somewhat ambiguous. And for that reason, the Justice Department has told us that it has serious concerns about the amendment.

Now, I read the language to apply prospectively; that is, to people who are subsequently convicted of a crime—but not to those employees who were convicted years ago—or at any time prior to when this proposal becomes law. And I also believe that parts (a)(1) and (a)(2) should be read conjunctively; that is, to apply to government employees who are convicted of drug-related bribery—but not to employees who are convicted of either bribery or drug-related crimes alone.

We have talked to Senator COVERDELL's staff and they are willing to work on the language of the amendment to make this clear and I am optimistic that we can write it to everybody's satisfaction in conference.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, we are now back on the VA-HUD bill.

I see my colleague from Minnesota has come in. I understand he wants to speak on another measure. But I ask my colleagues, if they have any business, if they wish to do anything, please be here before 6 o'clock. We are willing, ready, and able to do business and move forward on VA-HUD. But we do not need to hold personnel here if nobody is going to come forward.

With that invitation, or request, that all of our colleagues who may have either amendments or colloquies advise the ranking member or myself by 10 o'clock tomorrow that we will be here for votes, it will be a good opportunity for us to determine what measures are

going to come before the body so we can schedule the work on this very important bill and move forward.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation. I hope they will let us know what amendments they have.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I have discussed the floor situation with the Democratic leadership. They are currently doing a hotline asking that all Democrat Senators who have amendments to please apprise us of them this evening so that we will be able to report to the chairman tomorrow and to our leadership what those amendments are.

Upon the completion tomorrow on Treasury, postal, it would be my hope that anyone who must offer amendments on NASA—and some amendments have been traditionally offered on NASA—that they be on the floor so we can do this before the party conference. I know there are many Senators who have given a great deal of thought on how to improve these programs. We will be anxious to hear about their amendments.

So, Madam President, we are doing our best to make progress on this particular bill, and moving this bill forward. We will be able to report to you tomorrow morning.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS].

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to speak as if in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

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

Mr. GRAMS. Thank you very much, Madam President.

#### IS THERE NO SHAME IN WASHINGTON?

Mr. GRAMS. Madam President, I would like to speak a little bit tonight about taxes and the big controversy over tax cuts—and not only over tax cuts themselves but who qualifies for these tax cuts—what is fair, what is not fair. And really the basic bottom line is there is not enough money in the pot for the tax cuts that Americans need.

Madam President, as negotiators from the House and Senate meet with administration officials to hammer out a tax package, I rise today to be the voice for the millions of Americans who no longer seem to be heard here in Washington: the Nation's hard-working, overtaxed, middle-class families.

And I want to ask my colleagues, is there no shame in Washington?

Madam President, I read the comments made by the minority leader this morning, arguing that the \$77 billion tax cut bill "is not fair."

I have to say that I agree with the Senator from South Dakota. Any bill that cuts taxes by just \$77 billion is not only unfair—it's an outrage.

Let me remind my colleagues what happened in 1993.