

SEC. . INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year may be used to carry out section 203(h) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)) unless the Secretary of Agriculture inspects and certifies agricultural processing equipment, and imposes a fee for the inspection and certification, in a manner that is similar to the inspection and certification of agricultural products under that section, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—Subsection (a) shall not affect the authority of the Secretary to carry out the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.).

DEWINE AMENDMENT NO. 976

Mr. COCHRAN (for Mr. DEWINE) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1033, supra; as follows:

On page 53, line 3, before the period, insert the following: "Provide further, That, of the amount of funds made available under title II of said Act, the United States Agency for International Development should use at least the same amount of funds to carry out the orphan feeding program in Haiti during fiscal year 1998 as was used by the Agency to carry out the program during fiscal year 1997".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to consider the nominations of Dr. Catherine E. Woteki, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety; Ms. Shirley Robinson Watkins, of Arkansas, to be Under Secretary of Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services and a member of the Commodity Credit Corporation; Mr. August Schumacher, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services; Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, to conduct a hearing on the oversight on the monetary policy report to Congress pursuant to the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, at 9:30 A.M. on pending committee business.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, for purposes of conducting a full committee business meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this business meeting is to consider pending nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to broadly examine three aspects of natural gas issues into the next century. Specifically, the committee will look at world energy supply and demand to 2015, what percentage of that will be filled by natural gas, and how this could be impacted by other large scale energy projects, such as nuclear, that are being developed in Asia. Second, the committee will examine the role of Government in large scale gas projects in foreign countries, what type of assistance the U.S. companies competing for overseas projects receive from the U.S. Government, and what can be done in the United States to make American gas more globally competitive. The third aspect for consideration will be the emerging gas field development technologies that are making natural gas more economical to market.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee special investigation to meet on Wednesday, July 23, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on campaign financing issues.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on: The proposed reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, at 2 p.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, at 9:30 a.m.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

STAMP OUT BREAST CANCER

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, As chairman of the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services, which has jurisdiction over postal matters, I would like to comment on Representative MOLINARI's Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act, H.R. 1585, passed by the House on July 22, 1997. This bill is similar to the Feinstein amendment included as part of the Senate's fiscal year 1998 Treasury/Postal appropriations bill, S. 1023, in that it would raise money for breast cancer research through a new, specially designed postage stamp—generally referred to as a semipostal—which would be purchased on a voluntary basis and as an alternative to regular first-class postage.

H.R. 1585 differs from the Feinstein amendment in three respects. The rate of this semipostal would be determined in part, by the Postal Service to cover administrative costs and the remainder by the governors of the Postal Service to direct research. The total cost would not exceed the current cost plus 25 percent. In addition, following the 2-year period beginning on the date which the stamp would be publicly available, the General Accounting Office would report to Congress with an evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of this method of fundraising and a description of the resources required to carry out this bill. Finally, the Postal Service would have the authority to decide when the stamp would be available to the public and would have up until 12 months after the date of enactment to make it available.

Though this is a well-intentioned bill, and breast cancer research is a highly worthwhile cause, the idea of using the Postal Service as a fundraising organization for social issues is just plain wrong. If we start here, where do we stop? The list of diseases is endless. Requiring the Postal Service

to issue a semipostal stamp for breast cancer would place the Postal Service and Congress in the very difficult position of determining which worthy organizations should receive Federal assistance in fundraising and which should not.

The concept of semipostals has been around for years. Some nations issue them, however most do not. The European experience with this kind of stamp has shown that they are rarely as beneficial to the designated organization as would be expected. Consider the example set by our neighbor Canada. In 1975, the Canadian Postal Corporation issued a series of semipostal stamps to provide supplementary revenue for the Canadian Olympic Committee. It was reported that while the program received exceptionally good promotional and advertising support, it fell short of its intended revenue objective. Demand for the semipostals throughout Canada was reportedly insubstantial. The program—viewed as a failure—concluded in 1976. More recently, the Canada Post issued a semipostal to support literacy. With a surcharge of 5-cents per stamp, it raised only \$252,000. After raising only a modest amount of money, combined with a tremendous administrative expense, Canada Post says they will not issue another semipostal.

There is a strong U.S. tradition of private fundraising for charities. Such a stamp would effectively use the United States Postal Service as a fundraiser, a role it has never before taken on. The Postal Service's job—and expertise—is mail delivery. Congress should be mindful that the postage stamp pays strictly for postal operations. It is not a fee for anything but delivering the mail and the cost of running the service. In fact, section 3622 of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 precludes charging rates in excess of those required to offset the Postal Service's costs of providing a particular service. In other words, the Postal Service does not have the authority to put a surcharge on a postage rate that is cost and overhead driven. There is simply no legitimate connection between the desire to raise money for a cause, and maintenance of the Postal Service's mission of providing universal service at a universal rate.

The goals of H.R. 1585 are laudatory. But, Mr. President, as I previously indicated during Senate consideration of the Feinstein semipostal amendment, the Postal Service should not be doing fundraising.●

ON AND UNDER THE DELAWARE RIVER CLEANUP

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, throughout this week, hundreds of volunteers will gather together for the annual "On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup" on the upper Delaware River. People from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania will work together to clean up the Delaware River,

picking up trash and removing debris from the shores, surface, and bottom of a 70-mile section of the river. Once again, Ruth Jones and the folks at Kittatinny Canoes will lead this effort and supply the boats, cleaning materials, trash removal, and other services needed for the effort. National Park Service employees and a member of my staff will also participate.

The Delaware River is the longest free-flowing river in the country. It starts in my home county, Delaware County, NY, at the confluence of the east and west branches of the river in Deposit, NY and continues down through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, ultimately feeding into the Atlantic Ocean. The west branch starts in Stamford, NY, just 25 miles from my home in Pindars Corners.

This river is one of New York's and the Nation's great treasures. I applaud Ms. Jones for sponsoring this event and thank all the volunteers for their hard work in helping to keep the river clean.●

EXCHANGE OF NAVAL ATTACHÉS WITH VIETNAM

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an historic event in our relations with our erstwhile cold war enemy, Vietnam. On May 7, 1997, that country and our own great Nation exchanged defense attachés. Senior Col. Vo Dinh Quang of the Vietnam Army was accredited as the defense, military, naval, and air attaché to the United States. He is the first defense attaché from Vietnam since 1975, when the South Vietnam attaché positions dissolved by default with the collapse of South Vietnam.

The Corps of Foreign Attachés is a distinguished group of foreign senior officers who are accredited to the Department of Defense and the Department of State to officially and personally represent their defense secretaries in the United States with regard to military matters. Eighty-one countries around the world, allied and nonallied, are represented by over 100 navy, army, and air force officers living in the Washington, DC, area. Historically, this prestigious assignment has produced many flag and general officers who have subsequently become the equivalent of our service chiefs or Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A primary responsibility of the foreign defense attaché, as recognized by the Vienna Convention, is to collect information and learn about the services of the United States. To assist in this effort, the U.S. service chiefs sponsor an aggressive information program which includes orientation tours to commands and related industrial facilities; service chief counterpart and other delegation visits; intelligence and operations briefings; and document dissemination. In turn, the attaché provides Department of Defense decisionmakers with perspectives on developments within the attaché's country and armed services.

This is the office in which Senior Colonel Quang finds himself today. Born in 1932, Colonel Quang served in the North Vietnamese and Vietnamese Armies for a total of 27 years before being assigned to the Department of Foreign Relations within the Vietnamese Ministry of Defense. While serving in that capacity, Colonel Quang was a staff member of the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Personnel. His responsibility was to interface with the United States concerning our country's servicemen who were still missing in action.

Once a sworn enemy of the United States, Colonel Quang became a man who searched for the remains of our soldiers, sailors, and airmen. Now he serves here in Washington, representing his country as Vietnam's first post-war defense attaché.

In commemorating this historic event, I pray that this new relationship with Vietnam continues to prosper.●

MIKULSKI AMENDMENT ON AMERICORPS LITERACY FUNDING

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend my colleague, Senator MIKULSKI, for her leadership yesterday in seeking \$20 million for President Clinton's America Reads initiative. This amendment supports 1,300 AmeriCorps members who will serve as literacy tutors to help children learn to read—and read well—by the end of the third grade.

Reading is a fundamental skill for learning, but too many children have trouble learning how to read. If students don't learn to read in the early elementary school years, it is virtually impossible for them to keep up later. According to a recent study, 40 percent of fourth grade students don't attain the basic level of reading, and 70 percent don't attain the proficient level.

Research shows that reading skills are developed not only in the home and in the classroom, but also in communities and libraries. Sustained, reading opportunities outside the regular school day and during the summer can raise reading levels when combined with other instruction. Only 30 minutes a day of reading aloud with an adult can enable a young child to make real gains in reading. Adults also serve as role models for young children.

I commend Senator MIKULSKI for her effective leadership in the extremely important area of community service and childhood literacy. Every child can learn to read well, and every child deserves that chance. No child should be left out or left behind.●

EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON H.R. 2158

● Mr. KYL. Mr. President, yesterday I voted against H.R. 2158, the bill providing fiscal year 1998 appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and various independent agencies. Funding