

The Gorton amendment would also fully by-pass State education agencies that in New Mexico help coordinate and monitor programs. Some people think block-granting education funds might give local school districts more control or more funding. The reality is that if we block grant these programs and bypass the our entire State education network, we actually put a huge administrative burden on school districts that very few will be able to handle. And in fact, only about 6 percent of Federal funding is taken off the top by States for administrative and technical assistance. It simply isn't cost-efficient for small districts to provide the specialized training or diverse course offerings that can be provided economically at a state and regional level.

It's also entirely unclear how New Mexico would fare under such an arrangement—there is no real way of telling from the amendment, which proposes an entirely untried approach that has never really been debated before. Funding levels would basically be determined by having each individual district conduct a self-reported census on its own of all the school-aged children in the district, and then weighting each district's funding according to each State's average per capita income level. However it's not too hard to guess that we won't do nearly as well as some may think, since current formulas already awarding money directly to districts based on individual community need would be scrapped—and many communities would be left to fend for themselves.

For these reasons, it is my hope that this ill-conceived amendment will be dropped in conference, and left out of the final bill that is made into law. If necessary, I would likely join my colleague Senator DODD in filibustering the fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill if the Gorton amendment is kept in the final version.

THE CRISIS IN SIERRA LEONE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to light recent events in Sierra Leone. This has been a challenging year for democracy on the African Continent, and no where has it been more seriously challenged than in this West African nation. On May 25, 1997, mutinous soldiers overthrew the democratically-elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Lawlessness reigns throughout the country, as jail doors throughout Sierra Leone have been thrown wide, and judges and lawyers who once worked to ensure the rule of law have been forced to flee the country for their lives.

Ironically, it was only a year and a half ago that Sierra Leone held its first multiparty elections in 30 years, resulting in the transfer of power from the military to the civilian government of President Kabbah. With the conclusion of Sierra Leone's 5-year civil war last November, Sierra Leone was hailed by many in Africa and the

West as a model for other African nations. The bloody military coup d'état that ousted President Kabbah almost 4 months ago is not only an affront to the expressed will of the people of Sierra Leone, but is a direct challenge to the cause of democracy in Africa. I strongly condemn this deplorable action, and call upon the military to return power to the democratically-elected government.

Now, as a result of the spring coup, the Sierra Leone is largely isolated from the world. Foreign embassies have closed their doors. Foreign aid has been suspended. There is virtually no humanitarian assistance to speak of left in Sierra Leone. Every day that the military junta remains in power more men, women and children needlessly fall victim to senseless violence.

Meanwhile, the military junta continues its rapacious looting of the country, oblivious to the dire consequences of its actions. Freetown, the capital city, without electricity, sits in darkness. Schools are closed. Most doctors have fled the country and hospitals have been looted. Those who have not already fled the country face both a dwindling food supply and the military leaders' seemingly abject disregard for human life.

Mr. President, Sierra Leone's West African neighbors have courageously taken the lead in responding to this humanitarian crisis. Upon the outbreak of the coup, regional leaders quickly condemned the coup and imposed regional sanctions. At a recent meeting of West African heads of state those who called for the use of force to end the standoff were resisted, and it was resolved to strengthen the sanctions regime already in place.

I strongly commend this decision. Although attempts at negotiation with the junta in July were unsuccessful, I strongly believe that the successful road to peace and stability in Sierra Leone leads to the negotiating table instead of the battlefield. Sanctions must be given more time to pressure the military junta to give up its quixotic lust for power.

While the United States was among the first to condemn the coup, I urge our Government to continue to seek every opportunity to publicly support democracy in Sierra Leone. Those who would subvert the will of the people in Sierra Leone should have no illusion about the United States position.

The United Nations has already added its voice to international condemnation of the military junta in Freetown. Moreover, the Secretary-General has just appointed a special envoy to Sierra Leone in an attempt to resolve the crisis. I applaud these efforts. I urge the administration to use its influence at the United Nations to initiate a multilateral effort to severely restrict the military junta's ability to purchase arms and fuel. At the same time, I believe it is necessary to try to find a way to address the humanitarian needs of the innocent.

Mr. President, these are very troubled days for democracy in Africa. Although democracy is beginning to blossom in other parts of the world since the end of the cold war, it has yet to firmly take root in the fertile soil of many African nations.

Mr. President, as the rest of the world moves toward integration into the global economy, embracing democracy and liberal economic principles, we must not leave Africa behind. It is imperative that we who have fought for our own freedom, and who enjoy the fruits that democracy offer, continue to support others in their fight for the same. I thank the chair and yield the floor.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

MR. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 10, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,410,105,013,993.47. (Five trillion, four hundred ten billion, one hundred five million, thirteen thousand, nine hundred ninety-three dollars and forty-seven cents)

One year ago, September 10, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,217,211,000,000. (Five trillion, two hundred seventeen billion, two hundred eleven million)

Five years ago, September 10, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,035,342,000,000. (Four trillion, thirty-five billion, three hundred forty-two million)

Ten years ago, September 10, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,355,393,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred fifty-five billion, three hundred ninety-three million)

Fifteen years ago, September 10, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,110,901,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred ten billion, nine hundred one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,299,204,013,993.47 (Four trillion, two hundred ninety-nine billion, two hundred four million, thirteen thousand, nine hundred ninety-three dollars and forty-seven cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1866. An act to continue favorable treatment for need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, were read the first and second times by

unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 28. An act to amend the Housing Act of 1949 to extend the loan guarantee program for multifamily rental housing in rural areas; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 103. An act to expedite State reviews of criminal records of applicants for private security officer employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolutions, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 105. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress relating to the elections in Albania scheduled for June 29, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 133. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the terrorist bombing in the Jerusalem market on July 30, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1160. A bill to provide for educational facilities improvement.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC 2937. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Business and Media Visas" received on September 8, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 2938. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule received on August 28, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC 2939. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Pension and Welfare Benefits, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Class Exemption for Collective Investment Fund Conversion Transactions" received on August 13, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 2940. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans" received on September 10, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 2941. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Protecting Workers Exposed to Lead-based Paint Hazards"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC 2942. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Procedure 97-43; to the Committee on Finance.

EC 2943. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Ruling 97-39; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-226. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Appropriations.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, Many of our senior citizens rely on the Congregate Nutrition Services under Subpart 1 (commencing with Section 3030e) of Part C of Subchapter 3 of Chapter 35 of Title 42 of the United States Code, the Older Americans Act, for their main source of nutrition; and

Whereas, Many of our senior citizens rely on the Home Delivered Nutrition Services under Subpart 2 (commencing with Section 3030f) of Part C of Subchapter 3 of Chapter 35 of Title 42 of the United States Code, the Older Americans Act, for their only source of nutrition; and

Whereas, In many cases, the delivery person may be the only person who sees the senior citizen daily, and that person also serves as a resource for other needs that the senior citizen may have; and

Whereas, Delivered meals to a home-bound senior citizen is very cost-effective, since nutrition is basic to maintaining health and life; and

Whereas, Without home-delivered meals to home-bound seniors, they are forced into higher levels of care and the residential and skilled nursing facilities that those seniors are moved to cost much more; and

Whereas, Most of the cost of care in residential homes and skilled nursing facilities are passed on to the state and the federal government; and

Whereas, The means by which lowest cost under which care may be provided is to maintain these senior citizens in their own homes; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to maintain current levels of funding of Congregate Nutrition Services under Subpart 1 (commencing with Section 3030e) of Part C of Subchapter 3 of Chapter 35 of Title 42 of the United States Code, and Home Delivered Nutrition Services under Subpart 2 (commencing with Section 3030f) of Subchapter 3 of Chapter 35 of Title 42 of the United States Code; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to index annual cost-of-living increases in funding for Congregate Nutrition Services and Home Delivered Nutrition Services; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 360. A bill to require adoption of a management plan for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area that allows appropriate use of motorized and nonmotorized river craft in the recreation area, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-78).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 590. A bill to provide for a land exchange involving certain land within the Routt National Forest in the State of Colorado (Rept. No. 105-79).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 783. A bill to increase the accessibility of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-80).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance:

Olivia A. Golden, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

Kenneth S. Apfel, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2001. (New Position)

Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Nancy Killefer, of Florida, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury.

Nancy-Ann Minn Deparle, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration.

David A. Lipton, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 1162. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act with respect to penalties for powder cocaine and crack offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRYAN:

S. 1163. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prohibit the distribution of any negotiable check or other instrument with any solicitation to a consumer by a creditor to open an account under any consumer credit plan or to engage in any other credit transaction which is subject to that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. MACK, and Mr. HELMS):