

Welfare on issues related to persons with disabilities under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; race and national origin issues under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and gender issues under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In private practice, he trained professionals on the legal framework of the Rehabilitation Act, as well as serving as legal counsel for parents of children with disabilities in cases relating to securing a free appropriate public education for their children.

Bobby Silverstein has won not only my unquestioned respect and deep admiration, but that of Republican and Democratic Senate and House Members, leaders of the disability community, the business community and grassroots activists. His knowledge of the issues and his intellectual rigor and honesty are recognized by everyone with whom he's worked.

If Bobby Silverstein says something or is involved with putting forward a point of view, everyone knows that he has come to that position after meticulous study and careful, objective and reasoned analysis. Bobby has taught us all the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. He was able to achieve consensus among parties with strongly held competing views. The great respect he commands from those across the political spectrum is rare and is clearly a tribute to his abilities and tireless dedication to good research and sound analysis. It is this widespread trust and respect for Bobby and his work that has made much of the legislation we've enacted possible.

Mr. President, I, along with every American, owe a great debt to Bobby Silverstein. In all my years in public service, I have not encountered a more dedicated, caring and good-hearted person. He exemplifies all that is good about public service. He is truly among the best and the brightest individuals in the field of public policy. In the field of disability policy, he has no equal.

Mr. President, as you know and as I know and so many people know, as we pass legislation here, it gets our name on it. We are the sponsor of the bill. When it is enacted into law, it is our name that is on it. So often we know it is dedicated staff that really do the work.

I said so many times that most of the legislation that we pass dealing with people with disabilities, if it were not for Bobby Silverstein, it never, ever would have happened.

So, in that way his mark will remain for a long, long time, not only here in the Senate but all across America.

I will yield to my friend and colleague, the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I could not help but come in and join you, associate myself with your remarks for Bob, because I worked with him both in the House and the Senate. I agree with everything you said. He did so much to assist all of us who wanted to benefit those in the most needy situations. I agree with

you. If it wasn't for him—and also of course Patricia Morrissey on my side, those two who worked so very closely together all during that period of time—we would not have accomplished so much. Bobby was incredible. I know he is going to have even, perhaps, a more useful role now that the basic work is done in the profession he is going into. But he is one wonderful person.

You are to be commended for recognizing that and utilizing him, of course, to benefit all of us. I thank the Senator for his comments.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank my friend, the Senator from Vermont, who again is known for his keen intellect, but also a big heart. I appreciate what he just said about Bobby Silverstein. I should have recognized the fact that the Senator would have worked with him, of course, on the House side.

Again, the people who worked so hard to make our country more fair and to break down barriers of discrimination against people—surely no one can claim that Senator JIM JEFFORDS needs to take a back seat to anyone.

Certainly, Senator JIM JEFFORDS of Vermont need not take a back seat to anyone. Senator JIM JEFFORDS has always been in the forefront of those fights, especially working on the issue I have been talking about, people with disabilities. The Senator from Vermont has always been in the forefront assuring that people with disabilities have their full constitutional and civil rights in this country. So I appreciate what he said about Bobby Silverstein, and coming from the distinguished Senator from Vermont, believe me, it means a lot to me and it means a lot to Bobby Silverstein.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I have enjoyed working with the Senator from Iowa. I think we have been together on every issue here over the course of the years. I have been with him, or just a little bit behind him, on all of these. I commend him for all the work he has done. We both know that without Bobby and Pat Morrissey, we would not have been as successful as we were.

Mr. HARKIN. Absolutely true. I appreciate what the Senator said. It has been a real joy working with the Senator from Vermont both in the House and in the U.S. Senate.

So, Mr. President, as the Senator from Vermont said, Bobby is moving on. I am absolutely certain that his next endeavor, which is the center for the study and advancement of disability policy located at George Washington University, will have an immediate and long-term effect on national policy for Americans with disabilities. I might just add as an aside, Bobby is capable of nothing less.

So as Bobby Silverstein leaves the Senate, I congratulate him on his outstanding accomplishments. I thank him for his tireless service to his country. I extend my best wishes to Bobby, to his wife Lynne and their sons, Mark

and Evan, for continuing success in the many years ahead. So, Bobby, thank you for a job well done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. JEFFORDS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, while we are waiting for a final draft of the amendment I intend to offer, I thought in the meantime I might just as well talk about it, and then we can take care of it when it is ready.

Senator TORRICELLI and I had a very interesting time earlier this week in helping celebrate the aftermath of the reenactment of the Battle of Antietam which occurred this past weekend, which reenacted one of the most, if not the most, violent battles in the history of warfare in the Civil War.

It was a remarkable experience, because not only were there thousands of people participating in the reenactment, but there also were over 100,000 people who watched the reenactment of that incredible battle which was, they say, the most bloody of the Civil War.

It reminded me of this Nation, as we march on toward the end of this millennium, that we do have an obligation to make a commitment to ourselves in this interim before we go to the next millennium to ensure that we have learned the lessons of history, especially in this Nation, now the most proud and important and strongest Nation in the world, of how we formed and how we lived our lives up through the time it was created in respect to its modern form of people arriving from Europe and other places, and the struggles that we had which were not easy ones.

We are still, in a sense, living some of the aftermath with respect to some of the biases and problems of discrimination in this Nation against those in the black community, who, as we all know, came over here as slaves, and then the great Civil War between the North and the South fought, to some extent, based upon the principles of the States rights, and yet also the very, very difficult question of abolishment of slavery in this country.

I have had the opportunity over the course of time to study a great deal about that war, for Vermont was very dedicated and, in many ways, was the leader in the sense of commitment, for it was early on that Vermonters participated in a higher number per capita than any State in the North. In battle after battle, Vermonters were at the head of the troops. In fact, Lincoln at one time commented after reviewing the efforts of Vermonters, "Just tell them to follow the Vermonters."

When I was first in the Senate, our Vermont Legislature, in commemoration of the 100th year of the Battle of

Cedar Creek—I guess it was a little longer than that, 120th, or something like that, because that was 1864, so I wasn't quite here yet, obviously. But anyway, they, in a sense, passed a resolution telling the Vermont delegation that they should go to the Battle of Cedar Creek and locate a monument which was erected there many, many years ago which commemorated the Vermonters. I will mention a little bit about that in a moment.

We went there and had to locate it. It was at the back of a private house, and we found that it was all grown up and trees were winding in and out of the fencework around it. So we took immediate steps to get permission from the landowner and then transferred that information back to our legislature.

But it brought to mind that before the memorabilia and memorials all disappeared, it would be important for us to try and see what we could do to retain them and make them available for future generations.

So I introduced a bill to commemorate, in a sense, the battle in 1864 which led to the election of Lincoln, but also I became so entranced with Stonewall Jackson that I began to study the Stonewall Jackson campaign which occurred earlier in 1862 and recognized and realized from reading that it was the Jackson campaign in the Shenandoah Valley that led to a whole new concept of how to conduct war.

In those battles, Stonewall Jackson took advantage of modern movement by the railroads. So he would appear in one place in Virginia, lodge a battle and then hop on a train and move to a totally different area, and in wonderment, he would appear miles and miles away and have another battle.

So I came to the conclusion that it would make it very interesting if we could save those battlefields and to create a sort of historic trail with the Park Service so that people could, in a few days, start and follow the Stonewall Jackson campaign and move up through the Shenandoah Valley and then turn around and come back.

That idea grew. Then attached to that at that time came the thought that we ought to take a look at conserving all battlefields that had a meaningful part of our history. Thus, the Battlefield Commission was created and the coin and all to try and fund it. That happened.

Now we are coming, as I started to say, to the end of our century, the end of the millennium, and still much needs to be done to be able to make sure that the history and the battlefields which were the main battles of the Civil War are not lost for future generations.

We have found that many of them are up for sale or the lands around them or critical pieces of land that were involved with those battlefields are up for sale.

Thus, shortly we will be introducing an amendment to make sure that we do not lose the opportunity to provide the

funding and the direction to the appropriate Federal officials to make sure that there are funds available to ensure that we can maintain the integrity of the main battlefields of the Civil War.

I know my friend from New Jersey, who was with me as we thought about this and met with people this past week, joins me in this. I now yield the floor and allow him to participate in this discussion as we await the final draft.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I thank Senator JEFFORDS for giving me the opportunity to join with him in this amendment and offer not only my support by my appeal to our colleagues to not only support us in this effort tonight but in future years to keep the commitment to respond to the threat to battlefield sites and other aspects of American history, to give our true measure to protecting the history of this country.

In his Pulitzer prizewinning book, "Battle Cry of Freedom," James McPherson once wrote of the Civil War that:

Most of the things that we consider important in this era of American history—the fate of slavery, the structure of both the North and South, the direction of the American economy . . . the definition of freedom, the very survival of the United States—rested on the shoulders of those weary men in blue and grey * * *.

Most of those men, Mr. President, were simple volunteers, laborers, farmers. They were paid little and endured horrific conditions. Throughout the duration of the war, 620,000 Americans, black and white, North and South, soldiers and sailors, paid an extraordinary price to preserve this Nation or to define it as they would have had its future.

Mr. President, I rise today with Senator JEFFORDS in memory of those brave men because the lands where they fought, the places where they sacrificed, face a new threat. The battlefields of America, which define this country, where they gave their lives, may be lost to history. Future generations who might have been instructed by their sacrifices or discovered America by understanding what occurred on these lands will be denied the opportunity.

We rise, Mr. President, on an auspicious occasion in offering this amendment because it was 135 years ago today, only miles north of this Senate Chamber, when more than 125,000 Americans, Union and Confederate, gathered on the rolling fields near Sharpsburg, MD, for what we know as the Battle of Antietam.

It is therefore a fitting evening as we gather tonight to consider saving the lands where they died, to remember that only 12 hours after they gathered, in what would be remembered tomorrow, 23,000 men lay dead in what was the bloodiest day in American history, a day in which three times as many Americans fell as died on D-Day.

I remember this anniversary, Mr. President, because I come to this effort

helping Senator JEFFORDS here tonight because, with friends, I visited the Antietam Battlefield only months ago. I stood in the Sunken Road where 5,000 men fell as a part of that battle.

And as I stood in the Sunken Road, where so many men gave their lives, looking from the Confederate positions to where the Union assault would have come, I recognized something peculiar that did not belong, strange to a great Nation, a "For Sale" sign stuck into this sacred ground rested where brave men led an assault to save or define or to change the United States.

Mr. President, when Abraham Lincoln dedicated the national cemetery at Gettysburg, he said:

We cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

I recall these words in this Chamber today because it is now for us to decide whether Lincoln was right or was wrong, because a "For Sale" sign is on lands where so many Americans fell, where generations will seek to visit to learn of their sacrifice and understand the rich and proud history of America. It is no place for commercial development, the sale and destruction of lands. It is, Mr. President, a desecration.

The battlefield of Antietam is not alone. Today, hundreds of battlefields, where thousands of others died, face the similar threat of "For Sale" signs, a future as shopping malls, strip development, or suburban housing tracts.

The battlefields of Antietam, where Senator SESSIONS and Senator MURRAY tell me that their own great-grandfathers lost their lives, will soon be housing tracts or the same commercial development that I fear.

North of Antietam, in Gettysburg, home to Pickett's charge, Senator LOTT tells me his own great-grandfather fell, on the left flank of what was the bloodiest battle where 55,000 Americans died in 3 days, more than in all the battles in the war of 14 years in Vietnam.

South of here, in the lands around Fredericksburg, best captured by the photograph to my right—home to the battles of Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House—important Civil War landmarks have already been destroyed by housing tracts and shopping centers.

Places where schoolchildren would have visited to remember their own relatives, learn about their sacrifices, understand how America came to be as we know it today will never have the experience. But it isn't just Gettysburg, it isn't only Antietam, it isn't simply experienced by Fredericksburg. It's Vicksburg, MS; Petersburg, VA; Mobile, AL; Fort Donelson, TN; Perryville, KY; Bentonville, NC; Chickamunga, GA.

Indeed, two-thirds of the most important Civil War battlefield sites in our Nation in the next 6 years could be irrevocably lost to history. We are not, Mr. President, the first Senate to recognize this threat. In November 1990,

under the leadership of Senator BUMPERS and in the House of Representatives under the leadership of Congressman Mrazek of New York, with the signature of President Bush, we established the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission to advise the Congress on how to preserve these lands. This 15-member panel identified 384 critical Civil War battles or engagement sites that, in their judgment, should be preserved.

Even 7 years ago, however, they recognized that 20 percent were already lost to history through commercial development. But they recognized that there are still 260 that could be saved. They warned then that time was short. Now, it is even shorter.

Our amendment, through a sense of the Senate, will ask that the conferees use their best efforts to use funding available in the Land and Conservation Fund to immediately make available, within Park Service boundaries, funding to save those lands still available. It will use less than 10 percent of the funding available to the Congress this year out of the conservation funds.

We offer this as a sense of the Senate because we have Senator LOTT's commitment, and I believe his sincere pledge, to defend the interests of this Senate in preserving these lands, but mostly because Senator GORTON has given his own commitment. Because of his own sincere belief in this effort, he will lead us in this important cause.

Mr. President, I am standing here tonight as a representative of a young country. We are challenged, I think, by the notion that if we stood not in the U.S. Congress but in the French National Assembly, the British Parliament, or any other great assembly in Europe, it would be unthinkable that the lands of Verdun or Stalingrad or Waterloo would ever be destroyed through commercial development.

Perhaps our Nation is not as old, but its history is just as important. Our own children will look for instruction from what occurred in these important lands just as much as those of France, Russia or Britain.

So, Mr. President, I offer this amendment with Senator JEFFORDS, giving my thanks to our colleagues who join with us and, indeed, to Professor McPherson, who has inspired yet another generation with his writing and battle cry of freedom and for writing to Members of the Senate today in support of this important amendment.

Senator JEFFORDS, thank you for your leadership, and, Senator GORTON, thank you for your help in representing the Senate in the conference in preserving the sense of the Senate and dedicating these funds to this important effort.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, as I said at the beginning of the discussion of this bill last Thursday afternoon, my subcommittee is an extremely popular

one. I had some 1,800 special requests from Members, almost all for projects of one sort or another in their own States. I believe we may finish this bill tomorrow, but we have some two pages of amendments, most of which are not matters of profound national policy but, again, for specific programs or projects in individual States.

It is with that in mind that I want to say how refreshing it is to hear from these two Senators of their tremendous desire to save the sites of the most important battles, many of the most important battles, in the history of the United States that were fought in that profound turning point in our history, the Civil War.

I am quite a Civil War buff myself, a fan of Professor McPherson's book, perhaps an even greater fan of Shelby Foote, but with all of my reading, I fail to remember a single battle that took place in the State of New Jersey, and I can remember of only one skirmish that took place in the State of Vermont that was made into a movie a couple of decades ago. So the Senate has not heard from two Senators who are attempting to create projects in their own States. They are hearing from Senators who care deeply about our heritage and care deeply about the preservation of the physical aspects of that heritage.

At least two of the amendments that will be adopted tomorrow will relate to sites of battles that have already been preserved in large part but where the ravages of time are having a negative impact. The Senators know of my bias in favor of supporting them.

Even so, when the two Senators who sponsor this amendment first brought it to me, they placed me on the horns of a dilemma from which they now have most graciously removed me. The source of the money for the preservation of these sites is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. A \$700 million infusion into the Land and Water Conservation Fund was a recommendation of the President, which at least at that level was acceded to by the Senate leadership in negotiations over the budget. It was not a mandatory part of that budget agreement. The House of Representatives omitted to fund any portion of that \$700 million.

Feeling very strongly, in general terms, about the importance of not just this kind of preservation but of other preservation, my bill does include that \$700 million. It sets three priority items for use of that money, two of which amount to almost half of the \$700 million, high-profile priorities of the President of the United States—the Headwaters Forest in California and the New World Mine in Montana.

Another \$100 million in it is appropriately earmarked for the States' share program, money to share with the States as we have in the past for their own preservation of recreational and other property.

So when the Secretary of the Interior came to me with this request, we made

the determination that we would not earmark money directly for any other projects. I didn't want to be faced with a whole series of recommendations from the administration in which we in the Congress played no role. And I think it's safe to say the Secretary of the Interior and the administration didn't want us to spend all of the money without the administration playing any role in that determination. So I agreed that we would oppose additional specific earmarks in this bill.

At that point, these two Senators came along, either on their own, or knowing my own biases, and asked for money for a purpose which I think is worthy and of the highest possible priority. So they did put me on the horns of a dilemma. They have now agreed to make this a sense-of-the-Senate resolution as to how the money ought to be spent, with my support and with the support of the majority leader.

So I want to do two things. I want to thank them for phrasing it in this fashion and I pledge my support as we vote on the amendment. I also want to tell them that as we do work with the administration to set priorities across the country for the spending of the money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, assuming that we can get the House of Representatives to agree that we are going to have the money at all, it is very difficult for me to imagine any higher priority than the preservation of these Civil War sites. So I want to agree with this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 1218

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding the preservation of Civil War battlefields)

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI proposes an amendment numbered 1218.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of title III, insert the following: SEC. . It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) preserving Civil War battlefields should be an integral part of preserving our Nation's history; and

(2) Congress should give special priority to the preservation of Civil War battlefields by making funds available for the purchase of threatened and endangered Civil War battlefield sites.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, my amendment is a critically important amendment to make sure that we preserve the Civil War battlefields for those people who will be in the next millennium to better understand this Nation.

Mr. President, I am proud to be joined today by Senator TORRICELLI in offering this amendment of national historic significance.

The American Civil War is thought by many historians to be the fundamental event shaping the character of the United States. This amendment takes a giant stride at preserving our history by establishing that it is these funds that be made available to protect the threatened American Civil War battlefields.

I am proud to say that there is in this land a great wellspring of caring for the places where freedom was won and defended. Millions of Americans have, in recent years, become aware of the hallowed ground of our Civil War battlefields, have visited them, read of them, many have written of them.

The clear and eloquent message I hear is that these treasured places should be saved, intact, for future generations. The preservation message goes forth from Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas, Cold Harbor, Malvern Hill, Cedar Creek, Petersburg, Stones River, and dozens more Civil War places.

When battlefields become severely threatened these quickly develops a continuity of Americans that spreads nationwide. The American people care about their history, look on these places as national treasures, and speak eloquently and effectively for their preservation.

Preserving our Nation's battlefields is a subject very close to my heart. My efforts to preserve our Nation's historic places actually began in my State of Vermont several years ago when the Vermont Legislature unanimously passed a resolution asking Congress to save the places where Vermonters fought in the Civil War. The resolution was presented to me, and I went to work finding out all I could about the battlefields and what was needed. It quickly became apparent that the Civil War battlefields were in need of protection.

Over 7 years ago, Congress responded to the growing awareness of our Civil War heritage and the concern for the sites where that heritage took form, by passing legislation that created a national Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. Composed of distinguished historians, supported by a staff of National Park Service experts, the commission for 2 years studied the remaining Civil War battlefields. Civil War sites were visited, public meetings held, and in the end a report was written. The report presented a plan of action for protecting what remain of the Civil War battlefields. It is a plan that has recognized the need to act, a plan that I strongly favor.

Mr. President, as a proud American, preserving our great history is an opportunity I am always ready to seize. Congress should do what we can to help meet the recommendations of the Civil War Advisory Commission by preserving the country's most endangered Civil War sites.

In fighting to preserve Civil War battle sites, we have aimed to create the chance for our citizens to travel from battlefield to battlefield and to relive

the brilliant Jackson campaign of 1862, and the successful Union campaign of 1864. By preserving these sites, we will allow people to enjoy the beautiful surroundings such as the Shenandoah Valley and give area economies an important boost.

Several years ago, I had the privilege to travel from battlefield to battlefield with several Civil War historians and Civil War buffs. We saw those battlefields pretty much as they were during the Civil War. We relived Jackson's battles of the 1862 campaign, one of the most studied campaigns in history. We also retraced the Union campaign of 1864. At that time the election was not looking so good for President Lincoln, and the Union was in dire need of battle victories. General Sheridan marched the Union forces up to the valley and won a series of battles culminating in the Battle of Cedar Creek. Many historians believe that this was the turning point in the war.

Mr. President, I came away from this trip with the strong feeling that it is my responsibility as U.S. Senator to help preserve this part of our national heritage. Bruce Catton, one of our Nation's most eminent historians has written:

Any historian who confronts a gap in the record of bygone days knows moments of despair when he complains bitterly that no one took the trouble to dig out and assemble all of the facts while those facts were still available. To use unlimited resources in as broad and as all-inclusive as it possibly can be, to do it while everything is still fresh, and to do it with no other earthly motive than a desire to establish the full truth—this is the sort of thing that only governments can do, and they almost never dream of doing it.

Mr. Catton's words are more important than just an expression of the historian's frustration at not having access to "all the facts." His words constitute a challenge, a challenge to government to preserve and protect the fragile bits and pieces of our Nation's history that remain with us today, but which tomorrow could vanish forever.

Just this past weekend, the Battle of Antietam or Sharpsburg, as it was referred to by the Confederates, was relived as over 15,000 civil war enthusiasts reenacted this bloody battle before over 100,000 spectators. On this day, 135 years ago, over 23,000 brave Americans lost their lives at the Battle of Antietam. The number of casualties was three times greater than the number of Americans killed at Normandy on D-day. Left for the dead on the battlefield, but surviving, was a young captain from Massachusetts who became one of the nation's most respected Supreme Court Justices, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. General McClellan sent a message to Washington of a great victory, however the Confederates escaped across the Potomac and retreated into the lower Shenandoah Valley with little interference. Many believe that the victory prompted Abraham Lincoln to unveil his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862.

Mr. President, if we persist, we could give to future generations of Americans a gift of history, the opportunity to see, to walk, the hallowed ground of one of the most beautiful places on earth where this Nation's history was written. If we fail, we must answer to future generations who go in vain to seek places of our heritage. On October 19, 1864, with victory in his grasp, Jubal Early declined to launch a last attack. Early believed his valiant Confederate troops had won an adequate victory for the day along the banks of Cedar Creek. "But this is the Sixth Corps," an aide protested, "and they will not go unless we drive them." Early did not attack and his day was soon lost.

To those who would act too cautiously here, I say, "But this is the eleventh hour. The battlefields will be lost unless we act now and decisively."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an editorial from the New York Times of July 4, 1997, on the "latest battle of Gettysburg" be printed in the RECORD, along with a letter from James M. McPherson, of Princeton University, supporting my amendment.

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

[From the New York Times, July 4, 1997]

THE LATEST BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

When Abraham Lincoln said of Gettysburg that "the brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract," he did not reckon on the power of 20th-century developers.

At issue are 50 acres just outside the protective boundaries of the Battlefield Historic District at the interchange of Routes 15 and 30 in Pennsylvania. Gettysburg has mushroomed as a bedroom community in the last five years because of its proximity to the Baltimore-Washington area. Wal-Mart, several large hotels, fast-food franchises, grocery stores and a miniature golf course line the Route 30 corridor. Now, developers want to build a Giant Superstore on land that used to be Camp Letterman.

Camp Letterman was merely a field hospital in the sense that Gettysburg, where more than 7,000 died and 50,000 were wounded, was merely a battle. Nearly 5,000 union and Confederate soldiers were cared for in 500 tents at the camp. Historical records indicate that more than 1,200 were buried at the site. Although a mobile home park now sits on a small portion of Camp Letterman, which is under option by a development company, there has been no bulldozing or land contouring. Straban Township, where the camp is located, recently granted conditional approval to the development plan, although final approval is still pending with the Army Corps of Engineers, which can withhold building permits if significant archeological resources are discovered during excavation efforts. Archeological surveys so far have yielded indications of a grave.

The situation at Camp Letterman is emblematic of a national epidemic. Hallowed ground throughout the country is threatened by commercial development. For instance, a gravel company has optioned Buffington Island, the site of the only major battle in Ohio. If plans go through, the battlefield will be mined into a heap of pebbles. One of the more infamous struggles between development and historical preservation occurred in 1994 when the Walt Disney Company proposed to build a theme park in Virginia near

the Civil War shrines of Manassas. Had it not been for loud opposition from a conglomerate of scholars and legislators, Disney would have damaged an important historic area.

But most of the sites in jeopardy do not get publicity on the scale of Manassas, if they receive any attention at all. That should not diminish the significance of places like Camp Letterman, where soldiers spilled their blood for the sake of their country. In 1991, Congress created the Civil War Study Commission to avoid such dilemmas. The commission was charged with identifying high-priority sites and drawing up a plan to protect them. One of the most important discoveries involved public perception. Americans overwhelmingly believe that all Civil War sites are already protected. In fact, less than 4 percent fall under the national park system. More than one-third of all important battlefields are either ruined or nearly so. Without swift preservation efforts, the nation stands to lose two-thirds of its main battlefields within 10 years.

When the commission released its report in 1993, it recommended that Congress enact a "Civil War Heritage Preservation" law that would establish a national policy to protect the battlefields and related sites through a cooperative effort by national, state and local governments and private groups. But in a time of shrinking fiscal resources, its suggestions were shelved.

Sites like Camp Letterman tell the story of bravery and human suffering and conviction. The exchange of this heritage for strip malls and grocery stores is reprehensibly cheap. Before important parts of our past disappear, Congress should look to the future by re-examining the Civil War Study Commission's recommendations.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY,
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,
Princeton, NJ, September 16, 1997.

Senators JAMES JEFFORDS AND ROBERT G. TORRICELLI,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS JEFFORDS AND TORRICELLI: I strongly support the American Heritage Preservation Amendment that you have introduced in the Senate to use part of the proceeds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Civil War battlefield preservation.

In his address at Gettysburg to dedicate the cemetery for soldiers who had died in the epic battle, Abraham Lincoln said that the world "can never forget what they did here." Nor has the world forgotten. Millions of people visit Gettysburg and other Civil War battlefields every year. Most come away profoundly moved by the experience. Yet portions of many of these battlefields are endangered by encroaching commercial and residential development. Thousands of acres of hallowed ground may disappear under concrete and asphalt unless we act now.

As a member of the congressional Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, which in 1993 recommended urgent action by public-private partnerships to purchase or otherwise protect these acres, I have been disappointed by the failure of Congress to act. Private organizations such as the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, the Civil War Trust, and the Conservation Fund have raised millions of dollars for this purpose. But they cannot do it all alone. That is why I urge Congress to pass your American Heritage Preservation Amendment, which will dedicate a small portion—no more than 10 percent—of the \$700 million already designated for land acquisition from the LWCF for the purchase of important Civil War sites.

"We cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground," said Lincoln at Gettysburg.

"The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract." Lincoln was both right and wrong. We cannot consecrate this ground, but we can desecrate it. We must take steps now to prevent that desecration. The Jeffords-Torricelli Amendment is a crucial first step toward this goal.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES M. MCPHERSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1218) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, on the bill, I ask unanimous consent to make a technical clarification to the committee report on page 32 of the report, which indicates that a report on the Natchez National Historic Park as being due on January 30, 1997. The actual due date, obviously, would be January 30, 1998.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1212

(Purpose: Requires the Forest Service to implement recreation residence special use permit fees over a 5 year phase-in period and provides that no increases in fees may occur on the Sawtooth National Forest until January 1, 1999, and further provides that no fees may be increased sooner than a year after release of the Forest Service appraisal of the property)

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], for Mr. CRAIG, proposes an amendment numbered 1212.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 127, at the end of Title III add the following general provision:

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall hereafter phase in, over a 5 year period, the fee increase for a recreation residence special use permit holder whose fee increase is more than 100 percent of the previous year's fee, provided that no recreation residence fee may be increased any sooner than one year from the time the permittee has been notified by the Forest Service of the results of an appraisal which has been conducted for the purpose of establishing such fees, and provided further that no increases in recreation residence fees on the Sawtooth National Forest will be implemented prior to January 1, 1999.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this suspends, for the period of this next fiscal year, the implementation of fees for recreational use for cabins in a national forest in Idaho, while Senator

CRAIG and the appropriate committee discusses the method by which those fees were arrived at. It is cleared by both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1212) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1213

(Purpose: To revise the boundaries of the Arkansas Post Memorial, and for other purposes)

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Mr. BUMPERS and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], for Mr. BUMPERS, proposes an amendment numbered 1213.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following new section:

SEC. .ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

(a) The boundaries of the Arkansas Post National Memorial are revised to include the approximately 360 acres of land generally depicted on the map entitled "Arkansas Post National Memorial, Osotouy Unit, Arkansas County, Arkansas" and dated June 1993. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire the lands and interests therein described in subsection (a) by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange: *Provided*, that such lands or interests therein may only be acquired with the consent of the owner thereof.

Mr. GORTON. This amendment will modify the boundaries of the Arkansas Post Memorial.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1213) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1214

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Mr. COCHRAN and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], for Mr. COCHRAN, proposes an amendment numbered 1214.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 47, line 9, following "(25 U.S.C. 45, et seq.)" insert the following: "or the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501, et seq.)".

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this technical amendment clarifies language on the investment of certain funding by tribes and tribal organizations. The committee included language to provide some flexibility to tribes receiving advance payments of school grant funds. This language clarifies that such advance payments include those under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, or the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to. The amendment (No. 1214) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1215

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Mr. MURKOWSKI and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], for Mr. MURKOWSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 1215.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

"SEC. . Entry and permit limitations for Glacier Bay National Park shall not apply to the Auk Nu Marine—Glacier Bay Ferry entering Bartlett Cove for the sole purpose of accessing park or other authorized visitor services or facilities at, or originating from, the public dock area at Bartlett Cove: *Provided*, That any such motor vessel entering park waters for this stated and sole purpose shall be subject to speed, distance from coast lines, and related limitations imposed on all vessels operating in waters designated by the Superintendent, Glacier Bay, as having a high probability of whale occupancy based on recent sighting and/or past patterns of occurrence: *Provided further*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed as constituting approval for such vessels entering the waters of Glacier Bay National Park beyond the immediate Bartlett Cove area as defined by a line extending northeastward from Pt. Carolus to the west to the southernmost point of Lester Island, absent required permits."

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, this amendment is designed to bring an important element of the Alaskan national park experience to a wider range of visitors than has previously been the case.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, west of Juneau, can be reached

only by boat or plane. Park headquarters at Bartlett Cove is 65 miles from Juneau. It is an additional 40 miles from Bartlett Cove to the park's signature tidewater glaciers.

Glacier Bay proper is highly regulated by the National Park Service. Currently, only two cruise ships are allowed to proceed, from the outside, into Glacier Bay per day.

This amendment is not about cruise ships, nor will it adversely impact the forty miles from Bartlett Cove to the tidewater glaciers. In fact, this amendment has nothing to do with going into the bay beyond Bartlett Cove at the entrance to the Park.

Bartlett Cove, within Glacier Bay National Park, contains the Glacier Bay Lodge and Visitor Center, campground, Ranger Station, employee housing, maintenance facilities, etc. In short, it is the only developed area within the 3.3 million acre park.

The Cove also includes the docking facilities for NPS craft and the daily concession-operated tour boat. Overnight facilities are extremely limited, so day-use concession trips are one of the only ways, short of taking a cruise ship from Vancouver, to visit the park.

According to a recent "Consumer Report's" article, Glacier Bay is the highest rated park in America. The article does, unfortunately, mention the words "if you can get to it".

Currently, daily or overnight guests who leave Juneau by ferry for Glacier Bay National Park must disembark at the Gustavus docking facility and then get into a bus and drive for 45 minutes to an hour, to get to the NPS unpaved portion of the road which then leads to the docking facility so that you can again board a tour boat to go out and see the tidewater glaciers.

On the way back to Juneau from the glaciers, visitors travel by tour boat, then by the bus back through Gustavus, and finally by boat, back to Juneau.

Mr. President, this amendment is about: Convenient visitor access, access for the handicapped, access for the elderly; and, safety.

Somewhere along the line, in its effort to control the waters of Glacier Bay, the Bureaucracy forgot the concept that we are here to serve the all of the public * * * all of the people who would like to be National Park visitors * * * including the elderly, including those with handicaps and those whose age or physical condition necessitate easier forms of access to their national park.

It may be a surprise to some, but, some park visitors cannot leap tall facilities in a single bound. Some visitors, because of a disabling condition cannot get from the deck of a boat to a deteriorating dock facility 18 feet overhead.

Some visitors, even the most able among us, cannot be expected to jump from a boat on to an unprotected dock in high and windy seas just off of Icy Passage.

Unfortunately, in Alaska, and specifically Glacier Bay National Park, we have forgotten about the park visitor's convenience and safety. The dock facility at Gustavus is inconvenient, it is less than handicapped accessible, it can certainly be considered unsafe in certain wind and sea conditions.

This amendment will only allow the Auk Nu Marine—Glacier Bay Ferry to deliver park visitors, safely, to the protected harbor at Bartlett Cove within the boundaries of Glacier Bay National Park so that they can conveniently board the tour boat, or go to the lodge * * * period. The amendment does nothing else.

This amendment does not preclude the Superintendent from imposing speed limits and/or taking any other such actions to protect the wildlife and the other natural resources or waters of Glacier Bay National Park.

The amendment is not an attempt to subvert the current permit system, it is not as complicated as how do you know when it's time to tune your bagpipes. The amendment is simple and straight forward.

This amendment only involves safe and user-friendly access to the developed park facilities. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1215) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1216

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Mr. MURKOWSKI and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], for Mr. MURKOWSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 1216.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Title I of Public Law 96-514 (94 Stat. 2957) is amended under the heading "Exploration of National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska" by striking "(8) each lease shall be issued" through the end of the first paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(8) each lease shall be issued for an initial period of ten years, and shall be extended for so long thereafter as oil or gas is produced from the lease in paying quantities, or as drilling or reworking operations, as approved by the Secretary, are conducted thereon; (9) for purposes of conservation of the natural resources of any oil or gas pool, field, or like area, or any part thereof, lessees thereof and their representatives are authorized to unite with each other, or jointly or separately with others, in collectively adopting and operating under a unit agreement for such pool, field, or like area, or any part thereof

(whether or not any other part of said oil or gas pool, field, or like area is already subject to any cooperative or unit plan of development or operation), whenever determined by the Secretary to be necessary or advisable in the public interest. Drilling, production, and well re-working operations performed in accordance with unit agreement shall be deemed to be performed for the benefit of all leases that are subject in whole or in part to such unit agreement. When separate tracts cannot be independently developed and operation in conformity with an established well spacing or development program, any lease, or a portion thereof, may be pooled with other lands, whether or not owned by the United States, under a communitization or drilling agreement providing for an apportionment of production or royalties among the separate tracts of land comprising the drilling or spacing unit when determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be in the public interest, and operations or production pursuant to such an agreement shall be deemed to be operations or production as to each such lease committed thereto; (10) to encourage the greatest ultimate recovery of oil or gas or in the interest of conservation the Secretary is authorized to waive, suspend, or reduce the rental, or minimum royalty, or reduce the royalty on an entire leasehold, including on any lease operated pursuant to a unit agreement, whenever in his judgment the leases cannot be successfully operated under the terms provided therein. The Secretary is authorized to direct or assent to the suspension of operations and production on any lease or unit. In the event the Secretary, in the interest of conservation, shall direct or assent to the suspension of operations and production on any lease or unit, any payment of acreage rental or minimum royalty prescribed by such lease or unit likewise shall be suspended during the period of suspension of operations and production, and the term of such lease shall be extended by adding any such suspension period thereto; and (11) all receipts from sales, rentals, bonuses, and royalties on leases issued pursuant to this section shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States: *Provided*, That 50 per centum thereof shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury semiannually, as soon thereafter as practicable after March 30 and September 30 each year, to the State of Alaska for (a) planning, (b) construction, maintenance, and operation of essential public facilities, and (c) other necessary provisions of public service: *Provided further*, That in the allocation of such funds, the State shall give priority to use by subdivisions of the Senate most directly or severely impacted by development of oil and gas leased under this Act.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this clarifies conditions for oil and gas leasing of a national petroleum reserve in Alaska.

Mr. President, I should make clear that this amendment is cleared on both sides and is acceptable to the administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1216) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1217

(Purpose: Includes language limiting the expenditure of funds which may occur to fund the Forest Service's Juneau regional office)

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Mr. MURKOWSKI and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], for Mr. MURKOWSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 1217.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 69, lines 9 and 10, strike "the relocation of the Regional Office for Region 10 to Ketchikan and other".

On page 77, beginning on line 14 add the following: "Funds appropriated by this Act for Region 10 of the Forest Service to implement the Revised Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan, shall be spent and obligated at the Forest Supervisor and Ranger District levels. No funds appropriated under this or any other Act for the purpose of operations conducted at the Region 10 headquarters, including funding of centralized field costs for funding of persons employed at the Regional Office, shall be obligated or expended in excess of \$17,500,000 from the total funds appropriated for Region 10".

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the managers of the bill have accepted an amendment I have offered concerning the organization and funding for the Alaska Region of the U.S. Forest Service. I appreciate the consideration of the managers on this matter.

As many of my colleagues know, the Forest Service has recently completed the Tongass land management plan after a 10-year and \$13 million effort. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has conducted an extended oversight process on the development of this plan and on the prospects for successful implementation upon completion. Hearings held in July, August, and this month have raised significant questions about whether the Forest Service is organized, staffed, and funded to assure full implementation of the Tongass land management plan.

As a consequence of concerns raised during the early hearings in this series, the subcommittee chairman agreed to include language in the committee bill directing a reorganization of the Alaska Region. In subsequent hearings, we have collected additional information that suggests that, rather than moving to immediately reorganize the Alaska Region, it might be better to provide the Agency some direction on: First, the allocation of funds within the Alaska Region; and second, the development of a transition plan for implementation of the Tongass land management plan.

I believe that through the information collection in the oversight process conducted by the Commission on En-

ergy and Natural Resources we have developed a more perfected proposal than the one included in the committee bill. Therefore, I am offering, as an amendment to the committee bill, new language which directs that:

Funds appropriated by this Act for Region 10 of the Forest Service to implement the Revised TLMP shall be spent and obligated at the Forest Supervisor and Ranger District levels. No funds appropriated under this or any other Act for the purpose of operations conducted at the Region 10 Headquarters, including funding of centralized field costs or funding of persons employed at the Regional Office, shall be obligated or expended in excess of \$17.5 million from the total funds appropriated for Region 10.

The managers have also agreed to the following explanatory language in their statement explaining changes made to the committee bill:

The Tongass Land Management Plan reduces the Allowable Sale Quantity of the Alaska region. It is presumed that the Forest Service will tailor its workforce and organization appropriately. The Committee notes that expenditures on Regional Office operations and centralized field costs at the Region Headquarters has risen to 30 percent from 18 percent of annual appropriated funds since 1993. The Committee recognizes that the reduced timber volume offered under this plan will create economic hardships for local communities and that imbalanced distribution of remaining federal jobs and spending in the region may compound those hardships. Accordingly, the Committee expects the Regional Forester to conduct a regional work load study and to develop a workforce plan that ensures high levels of customer service throughout the region, preserves the Regional Headquarters in Alaska, evaluates the need to consolidate and/or relocated offices, including relocating the Regional Office to Ketchikan, and provides for implementation by January 1, 2000. Further, the Committee expects the workforce plan to reflect the full participation of affected Southeast Alaska communities, and to include a community by community assessment of economic impacts and the rationale used by the Regional Forester to distribute federal jobs under the workforce plan. The Committee expects that the workforce plan will emphasize retention of personnel experience in Southeast Alaska's multiple use mission, will make maximum use of local hiring authority, and will be submitted to committees of jurisdiction in both the House and the Senate by March 1, 1998 for review and further guidance, if warranted. Any expenditures at the Regional Office in excess of \$17.5 million from the funds provided to the Region shall be preceded by a 60-day notification of the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

I believe that this language will provide direction to the Forest Service to allocate funds in a fashion that will come closer to assuring full implementation of the Tongass land management plan.

This approach will materially improve Forest Service operations in Alaska. During our oversight process, we discovered that over the last 6 years the Agency has increased the amount of funds consumed in the Regional Office from an average of 18 percent of annual Regional appropriations to something closer to 30 percent. This has diminished the Agency's field capability. Now, with the TLMP complete

it should be the Forest Service's intention to focus more of the funding and effort at the field level.

Should the conferees be agreeable to adopting the language that we are including in the Senate bill, I would hope that conference report language could be included which directs the Forest Service to tailor its work force and organization appropriately.

I would hope that the conferees note that expenditures on regional office operations and centralized field costs at the regional headquarters have risen to 30 percent from 18 percent of annual appropriated funds since 1993.

I trust that everyone recognizes that the reduced timber volume offered under the new TLMP plan will create economic hardships for local communities and that imbalanced distribution of remaining Federal jobs and spending in the region may compound those hardships. Accordingly, I would hope that the conference report would direct the regional Forester to conduct a regional work load study and to develop a work force plan that ensures high levels of customer service throughout the region, preserves the regional headquarters in Alaska, evaluates the need to consolidate and/or relocate offices, including relocating the regional office to Ketchikan, and provides for implementation by January 1, 2000.

Further, the workforce plan should reflect the full participation of affected southeast Alaska communities, and include a community-by-community assessment of economic impacts and the rationale used by the regional forester to distribute Federal jobs under the work force plan. I hope that any work force plan will emphasize retention of personnel experienced in southeast Alaska's multiple use mission, will make maximum use of local hiring authority, and will be submitted to committees of jurisdiction in both the House and Senate by March 1, 1998, for review and further guidance, if warranted.

Under my amendment, any expenditures at the regional office in excess of \$17.5 million from the funds provided to the region would have to be preceded by a 60-day notification of the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives. I believe this language properly reflects the results of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources oversight efforts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to. The amendment (No. 1217) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

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

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I understand the Presiding Officer has certain announcements to make.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 101-445, appoints Charles H. White, of Mississippi, to the National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces that the Senate has received from the House H.R. 2378, the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill for fiscal 1998.

Under a previous order, all after the enacting clause of H.R. 2378 is stricken, and the text of S. 1023, as passed by the Senate, is inserted in lieu thereof, the House bill, as amended, is read a third time, and passed. The Senate insists on its amendment, requests a conference with the House, and the Chair appoints the following conferees.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. HUTCHINSON) appointed Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. MIKULSKI, conferees on the part of the Senate.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces that the Senate has received from the House H.R. 2264, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill for fiscal 1998.

Under a previous order, all after the enacting clause of H.R. 2264 is stricken and the text of S. 1061, as passed by the Senate, is inserted in lieu thereof. The House bill is read a third time, and passed. The Senate insists on its amendment, requests a conference with the House, and the Chair appoints the following conferees.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. HUTCHINSON) appointed Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. BOND, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BYRD conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a

period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

OPERATION DRUG FREE GEORGIA

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, during a recent meeting in my home State of Georgia, a young woman approached me to express her concerns and hope that we can soon eradicate drugs from her home town of Cordele, GA. Her comments were written down on a piece of paper and were as follows:

I can be anything, if I put my mind to it. But, if I use drugs I won't have a mind to do anything.

Drugs Destroy Dreams. United we can help Senator Coverdell stomp out drugs in Cordele.

Mr. President, her comments struck me because they are frank and hard-hitting—if you use drugs, you will not be able to follow your hopes and dreams.

As we legislate in this body, we must continue to listen to our youth as they convey this message. For after all, they are the ones in which the future, and all of our dreams, lies.

SALLIE MAE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, a constituent of mine, Mr. Brad Cohen, has been named the winner of the 1997 Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award for the State of Georgia. I ask unanimous consent that a congratulatory letter to him be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, August 26, 1997.
Mr. BRADLEY COHEN,
Atlanta, GA

DEAR BRAD: It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on being named the winner of the "1997 Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award" for the State of Georgia.

Brad, you have every reason to be proud of this achievement; it is indeed a special honor to have been singled out among the thousands of gifted and dedicated school teachers throughout our wonderful State. You have set a marvelous example for your students, enlightening them with your own experience and the importance of self-confidence. Your second-graders are truly lucky to share your knowledge and enthusiasm.

Thank you for your outstanding contributions to the youth of Georgia, and best wishes for every continued success.

Sincerely,
PAUL D. COVERDELL,
U.S. Senator.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I thank you, and once again congratulate Mr. Cohen on his achievement.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending September 12,