

A bill (S. 1637) to extend through the end of the current fiscal year certain expiring Federal Aviation Administration authorizations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent this bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1637) was passed, as follows:

S. 1637

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, ETC.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 48103 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$2,050,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1998 and ending August 6, 1999.” and inserting “\$2,410,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999.”.

(b) OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of such title is amended by striking “August 6, 1999,” and inserting “September 30, 1999.”.

(c) LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION.—The provision of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, with the caption “GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS (LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION) (AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)” is amended by striking “Code: *Provided further*, That no more than \$1,660,000,000 of funds limited under this heading may be obligated prior to the enactment of a bill extending contract authorization for the Grants-in-Aid for Airports program to the third and fourth quarters of fiscal year 1999,” and inserting “Code.”.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, September 27. I further ask unanimous consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 3:30 p.m., with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each with the following exceptions: Senator THOMAS, or designee, 1 hour; and Senator DURBIN, or designee, 1 hour.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene on Monday at 12 noon and be in a period of morning business until 3:30 p.m. By previous order, at 3:30 p.m. the Senate will begin consideration of two resolutions that were introduced today regarding education. The Lott

and Daschle resolutions will be debated concurrently for 2 hours, and the Senate will then proceed to two stacked votes. Therefore, Senators can expect the first vote on Monday at approximately 5:30 p.m. Following the votes, the Senate may begin consideration of any conference reports, appropriations bills, or nominations available for action.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator COVERDELL.

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL SURVIVORS FOR PREVENTION OF SUICIDE DAY

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 283, Senate Resolution 99.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 99) designating November 20, 1999, as “National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 99), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 99

Whereas the 105th Congress, in Senate Resolution 84 and House Resolution 212, recognized suicide as a national problem and suicide prevention as a national priority;

Whereas the Surgeon General has publicly recognized suicide as a public health problem;

Whereas the resolutions of the 105th Congress called for a collaboration between public and private organizations and individuals concerned with suicide;

Whereas in the United States, more than 30,000 people take their own lives each year;

Whereas suicide is the 8th leading cause of death in the United States and the 3rd major cause of death among young people aged 15 through 19;

Whereas the suicide rate among young people has more than tripled in the last 4 dec-

ades, a fact that is a tragedy in itself and a source of devastation to millions of family members and loved ones;

Whereas every year in the United States, 200,000 people become suicide survivors (people that have lost a loved one to suicide), and there approximately 8,000,000 suicide survivors in the United States today;

Whereas society still needlessly stigmatizes both the people that take their own lives and suicide survivors;

Whereas there is a need for greater outreach to suicide survivors because, all too often, they are left alone to grieve;

Whereas suicide survivors are often helped to rebuild their lives through a network of support with fellow survivors;

Whereas suicide survivors play an essential role in educating communities about the risks of suicide and the need to develop prevention strategies; and

Whereas suicide survivors contribute to suicide prevention research by providing essential information about the environmental and genetic backgrounds of the deceased: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1)(A) designates November 20, 1999, as “National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day”; and

(B) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on Federal, State, and local administrators and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

(2) encourages the involvement of suicide survivors in healing activities and prevention programs;

(3) acknowledges that suicide survivors face distinct obstacles in their grieving;

(4) recognizes that suicide survivors can be a source of support and strength to each other;

(5) recognizes that suicide survivors have played a leading role in organizations dedicated to reducing suicide through research, education, and treatment programs; and

(6) acknowledges the efforts of suicide survivors in their prevention, education, and advocacy activities to eliminate stigma and to reduce the incidence of suicide.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, earlier this week we have heard again the chiming of the celestial clock, the autumnal equinox sounded the arrival of fall and the harvest season. In Washington, the skies today are sapphire blue and they look like parchment marked only with wispy glyphs of aircraft contrails. The air is crisp and the air is clear, with none of the steaminess that burdened our torrid summer days. Evenings serve up the glorious gradations of vivid colors from a palette only God could paint. Night comes earlier and night is cooler. The hum of air conditioners is giving way to the weight of blankets on the bed. In the words of Humbert Wolfe:

Listen! The wind is rising,
and the air is wild with leaves.
We have had our summer evenings,
now for October eves!

The year is advancing, cycling into its season of greatest abundance as crops mature and are harvested—such crops as they are. I have to add that, in the light of the terrible drought that has afflicted the eastern part of the United States, from Vermont to Tennessee. But as the crops, such as they are—mature and are harvested against the coming of winter. Branches are bent over with crisp apples and succulent pears, foretelling the apple butter festivals to come.

Mr. President, we have great apple butter festivals in West Virginia. Go to Berkeley Springs in Morgan County, just an hour and a half's drive from here. Go to the apple butter festival there. And there are apple butter festivals in other parts of West Virginia.

In my backyard, the squirrels and the chipmunks are gathering, and I play a little game with those squirrels and chipmunks. My wife, Erma, always sees to it that I have a large bag of peanuts. And when I look out the window and see squirrels, I go to the door, softly unlock the door, but the squirrels, they hear. And when they hear the little noises at the door they perk up, they sit up on their haunches and they look at the door, and then they break out into a run. They run to the door—my door, my door that opens on the back porch of my house—they run to the door because they sense that there is about to be a peanut that will emerge from a tiny crack when the door is opened. And they pounce upon that peanut.

The chipmunk also runs for the peanut. Sometimes he wins and gets there first, but many times he doesn't get there first, and I can just sense the disappointment on his little face as he becomes very excited and runs here and there, thither and yon, looking for a peanut which the squirrel was first to get. So I throw out another peanut and the chipmunk gets that one.

The squirrels and chipmunks are gathering and storing acorns and peanuts and every bit of corn and birdseed that they can steal from my feeders. Erma and I average about 40 pounds of bird food a week that we put in our bird feeders.

The tomato plants—aha, my tomato plants, great farmer that I am—I, every year, put out a half-dozen tomato plants. This year was a terrible year for tomatoes. The tomato plants that I cultivate in my backyard are straining under their last load of ruby jewels. But the jewels have been so slow this year to become ruby-colored. They remain green. And, of course, Mr. President, you might understand the greed with which I approach those succulent fruits from the tomato plant. But they have suffered this year not only from the heat, but also from the drought, and then from the recent heavy rains.

I am a fortunate farmer. My little crop is grown for pleasure, in the main. I try to furnish my own table and that of any of the grandchildren who happen to come by. My little crop is grown for pleasure. My clay pots have not been cracked by this summer's record drought, nor flooded by Hurricane Floyd. Many farmers upon whose labors my winter table depends have not been so fortunate, of course. Crops and livestock throughout the Nation have been buffeted by rather exceptional weather conditions this year, and particularly in the eastern part of the United States, from Tennessee to Vermont.

Come November, farmers are likely to be saying prayers—and I should think they probably have already been saying prayers—prayers of relief because, indeed, there were some rains still left in the heavens.

In our conference committees, Senators are working to provide assistance to our family farmers, so that they might be able to recover partially, at least, from this disastrous year and return to oversee the plowing and the calving, the planting and the lambing, the pruning and the blossoming once again, rather than giving up on their most honorable and arduous careers.

I have no doubt that the distinguished Senator who presides over the Senate this afternoon with a degree of dignity and skill, that is so rare as a day in June, knows what I am talking about because he comes from Wyoming and there are farmers there and farms. He knows when I talk about calving, lambing, pruning, planting, and plowing, these are not strange, alien words to him.

I hope that we will succeed in our efforts here in the Senate and speed up this relief to our farmers. It is much needed, and it should be on its way without delay. Those people are suffering.

The march of the seasons also brings us nearer to the close of the year. This year, that event has a special import. We have just begun—I believe it was yesterday—on the 100-day countdown to a calendar change that has spawned many nicknames, Y2K being one of the most common in the United States.

The concern over computer glitches caused by the date change certainly warrants our attention and corrective action. But the hype over Y2K and its alias, the "millennium bug," has spawned a misguided perception regarding the true beginning of the third millennium since the birth of our Lord. It is a small but irritating example of sloppy, careless media reporting and advertising that reject the role of informer and educator in favor of following the popular trend. This trend might be termed "the odometer theory," in which the physical act of watching all the nines roll over to zeros on a car's odometer becomes a symbolic ritual unrelated to how well the car is or is not running. Watching 1999—1-9-9-9—roll over to 2-0-0-0 may

be a rare event that warrants a new year's party, but it does not truly signify anything except a new year.

To be formal, accurate, and correct, we must not confuse, as so many are presently confusing, January 1, 2000, with the beginning of the new millennium, which it is not. January 1, 2000, does not begin the new millennium, unless we wish history to say that the second millennium contained only 999 years.

When the Christian calendar, observed in the United States and, indeed, in most of the world, was established in the 6th century by the Scythian monk, chronologist, and scholar Dionysius Exiguus, died A.D. 556, he began his calendar with January 1, year 1. Thus, the third millennium will begin on January 1, 2001, not 2000. Not 2-0-0-0. So forget it. The coming year of 2000 is not the beginning of the next millennium. It is only the end of the current millennium. And this coming January is not the beginning of the 21st century. The year 2000 merely closes out the 20th century. Otherwise, we lose a year somewhere along the line—a good old fiddle tune. Somewhere along the line, we are going to throw away a year.

This may be the new math, but according to the old math, there are 100 years in every century for it to be a complete century, and there are 1,000 years in every millennium to complete a millennium. So let's be more accurate.

We may party, we may think, we may say the millennium begins next year. So on December 31 of this year, when the clock strikes 12 midnight, there are those who may wish to bring out the champagne and say: Ah, this is the new millennium!

It is not. We may party like it is, this December, but I caution everyone against living it up as if the world were going to end or you may face a very embarrassing morning after.

I thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me a few minutes to set the record straight. There it is. Unless the new math says that 999 years constitute a millennium, and that 99 years constitute a century, unless that is a given, we have to wait another year before the beginning of the third millennium.

Let's set the record straight on that score. It may seem like a small thing, just a little thing, the cranky ranting of a cranky older fellow. The Bible says "the little foxes that spoil the vines." I am talking about one of those little foxes.

I am confident that others share my desire for accuracy, and my suspicion that reporters and commentators and public figures who fail on a fact so readily checked may be sloppy with other facts as well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until noon on Monday.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 27, 1999, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 24, 1999:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

A. J. EGGENBERGER, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2003. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JESSIE M. ROBERSON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2002, VICE HERBERT KOUTS, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 24, 1999:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICER FOR REAPPOINTMENT AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 152:

To be general

GEN. HENRY H. SHELTON, 0000.

NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOSEPH W. DYER, JR., 0000.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING MICHAEL L. COLOPY, AND ENDING EVELINE F. YAOTIU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON AUGUST 3, 1999.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY, UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 9333(B):

To be colonel

THOMAS G. BOWIE, JR., 0000.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING JAMES W. BOST, AND ENDING GROVER K. YAMANE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1999.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MICHAEL J. DELLAMICO, 0000.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHARLES S. DUNSTON, 0000.

NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING THOMAS K. AANSTOOS, AND ENDING ROBERT D. YOUNGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 26, 1999.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING DAVID M. BROWN, AND ENDING PAUL W. WITT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON AUGUST 4, 1999.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING ANIBAL L. ACEVEDO, AND ENDING STEVEN T. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1999.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING DANIEL A. ABRAMS, AND ENDING JOHN M. ZUZICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1999.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING MARC E. ARENA, AND ENDING ANTONIO J. SCURLOCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1999.