

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 4, 1999, at 11 a.m., in Dirksen Room 226, to conduct a hearing.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on November 4, 1999, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in Dirksen 562 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONFERENCE REPORT FOR INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2000

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the Senate passed the conference agreement for the Interior appropriations bill on October 21, 1999. Although this conference report was approved by unanimous consent, I wanted to express my objections to the amount of excessive pork-barrel spending and extraneous legislative riders included in this final agreement.

In late September, the Senate passed an Interior bill that included \$217 million in wasteful and unnecessary spending. This new conference agreement has taken pork-barrel spending to higher proportions by adding an additional \$140 million in earmarks that either were not included in the Senate or House bill, or increased funding levels for certain projects at levels far above the requested amounts.

I am constantly amazed by tactics used by my colleagues to attach earmarks for parochial projects that have not been authorized or that circumvent a fair and merit-review process. The conferees have even included report language that directs federal agencies to fund targeted earmarks included in the conference report prior to distributing general allocated funds to the rest of the country.

In my review of the final conference report, I have identified numerous earmarks and riders that are included in a list of objectionable provisions that is available on my Senate webpage. I remind my colleagues that I do not object to these projects based on their merit nor do I intend to belittle the importance of specific projects to local communities. My objections are based on issues of fairness and following established procedures to consider budgetary items as well as a undergoing a separate legislative process for policy and statutory changes to our federal laws. Unfortunately, the conferees have been able to side-step our established budget and legislative rules by utilizing deceptive wording and budget gimmickry.

For example, this conference report includes an extra \$22 million in designated "emergency" funding for certain areas in the State of Alaska. This funding was not considered in either the Senate or House bills, but added during last-minute negotiations. Again, I certainly understand economic hardships facing rural Alaskans, but why is funding economic projects such as building a regional shipyard, a larger fishing dock, as well as converting a pulp mill to a Coca Cola bottling plant, of higher priority than addressing important land and resources management issues that are intended to be paid for through the Interior appropriations bill? This added "emergency" spending, despite that fact that it will purportedly not count against budget cap restrictions, will still be paid for by the taxpayers.

Also added in this conference report is an entirely new title that includes legislation, the "Mississippi National Forest Improvement Act of 1999," which had not previously considered in the previous Senate or House bills. Furthermore, emergency funding of \$68 million is provided for the "United Mine Workers of America" benefit fund, also not previously included in either the Senate or House versions of the Interior appropriations bills.

The conferees have targeted funding for projects that provide little detail as to their overall national priority or merit. For example, \$300,000 that was originally dedicated for a Forest Service regional office is instead directed to be earmarked for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems at the Forest Products Labs in Wisconsin. Language is included to provide for specific acquisition of a high band radio system for the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. While these maintenance improvements may very well be necessary, is this the type of projects that deserve funding above other important land, forest and wildlife priorities?

Much of this wasteful spending could be directed toward other priorities and programs that allow states and local communities to prioritize their own needs at the local level, such as the State-side program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I, along with several of my colleagues, have supported prioritizing the State-side program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund as a program that provides federal resources for projects that are considered fairly and competitively. The conferees agreed to provide \$20 million to the State-side program for the first time in many years, but this level is less than the \$30 million approved by the Senate and far below what is necessary to address locally identified needs. Unfortunately, the State-side program, and many other programs that fund projects based on merit and national priority, are penalized due to other low-priority and special interest spending as part of this conference report.

Mr. President, each year the conferees utilize the appropriations process to tack on legislative riders that either were not considered through a legislative process or added with the intention to delay important policy and regulatory changes. Many environmental and land management laws cannot be updated or reviewed when legislative riders are included that prohibit any action by federal agencies to proceed with a fair and comprehensive review of impacts on our natural resources. A few of the these riders include:

A delay in promulgating rules to update oil valuation royalty assessments for oil drilled on federal lands;

A two-year exemption for certain mining companies who utilize public lands for purposes of storing mine waste;

A year-long delay for surface management regulations governing hardrock mining; and,

A continuing moratorium on Indian tribal P.L. 93-638 Indian Self-Determination Contracts that allow direct management and funding for tribally operated programs.

I support an open and fair review of our laws that govern public lands and resources, but we cannot fully evaluate the fairness and appropriateness of proposed changes when legislative riders such as these put a halt to our congressional review.

Mr. President, there is no doubt that important land, forest and Native American programs will continue to be supported through this annual funding bill. Unfortunately, many communities across this country will not receive the critical resources they need because of the continuing and unfair practice of pork-barrel spending. This year, our American taxpayers will pay the tab for \$357 million in parochial and low-priority spending. •

RESPECT MONTH

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, both the State of Michigan and the City of Detroit have proclaimed the month of October "Respect Month" for the past decade and October 30th "Respect Your Neighborhood Day". These designations give us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many daily acts of service, that sometimes go unnoticed, but are so vital to binding our communities and nation together with harmony and unity. Over the last month, organizations and schools in Michigan took the opportunity to give young people a greater acceptance of the similarities and differences of others.

The principle of respect is especially important in the aftermath of last school year's shootings. While our nation is focused on creating an atmosphere free from fear and violence, it is important to pause and reflect on our respect for one another. Respect is a valuable lesson for the schools who are struggling to repair the damage these

horrific acts of violence have caused. In fact, in the last few weeks I have reported several incidences of gun violence which have devastated families and school communities, leaving many people wondering what we, as a nation, can do to prevent these tragedies, and how we can reinforce the rule of respect.

I believe there are many things that we can do to make a difference. I have stated many times that one of the first things Congress can do is limit the easy access to firearms by our young people. I will continue to speak out about the need for strengthening our gun laws, but I also believe that there are other critical components of the complex puzzle of youth violence and one of them is respect. Devoting a month to respect provides an excellent avenue by which our young people can focus on the importance of honor, acceptance, and values.

While this is not expected to end all violence, it is my hope that by continuing to implement the lessons of respect in our daily lives, we can, in fact, make a positive impact in neighborhoods, not only across Michigan, but across the country as well. ●

THE HONORABLE ELMER B. STAATS, COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, 1966-1981

● Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, today the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary by honoring Elmer B. Staats, who served as Comptroller General of the United States from 1966-1981. The Comptroller General of the United States has enormous responsibility as head of the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO). Much of what we take for granted about GAO's successes in the area of government accountability results from the leadership of each Comptroller General. The commitment required to fulfill the responsibilities of this important position are equally balanced by the excellence we have seen in the occupants of the job.

That said, Elmer Staats occupies a special place not only in GAO's history, but for establishing the foundation of improved government accountability and fiscal responsibility so important to the sound functioning of our government. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs I can attest to the importance of Mr. Staats' contributions, because they have crucially shaped the effectiveness of GAO over the years and have been of enormous assistance to the Committee and to the Congress as a whole.

Elmer Staats increased GAO's visibility and services to the Congress dramatically. Elmer Staats expanded GAO's work beyond the mere consideration of the legality of expenditures and agency administrative activities, and began examining the effectiveness of government programs. What is im-

portant is that he did so by adapting rigorous accounting or "Yellow Book" Government Auditing Standards. In fact, when it comes to the Yellow Book, Elmer Staats literally wrote the book. Finally, Elmer Staats set the pace for GAO to be a leader in the fight against waste, fraud, and abuse. As Stephen Barr reported in *The Washington Post* on Thursday, October 28, 1999, "For fiscal 1999, the GAO expects its recommendations to produce budget savings and financial benefits worth more than \$20 billion. That follows several years in which the GAO's auditing and investigative work has led to annual savings of between \$16 billion and \$21 billion."

I applaud ASPA's decision to honor Elmer Staats to highlight its own 60 years of service to our nation, and I extend my personal congratulations to Elmer Staats for receiving such a high honor. I ask unanimous consent that a congratulatory letter from the current Comptroller General, David M. Walker, be entered into the RECORD at this point.

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

GAO,
U.S. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 28, 1999.
The Honorable Elmer B. Staats,
5011 Overlook Road, NW.,
Washington, DC 20016.

Dear Elmer: It is with enormous pride and privilege that I join your many colleagues and friends in honoring you on this 60th anniversary of the American Society of Public Administration. I regret that I cannot be there to share in the celebration due to a previous family commitment.

In the worlds of public accounting and public administration, we are the beneficiaries of your good name and myriad good works. It is both an honor and a responsibility to follow in your footsteps as Comptroller General of the United States. I would not begin to attempt to summarize the dollars saved, the federal programs strengthened, and the citizens' lives improved as a result of your many years of public service. I refer not only to your accomplishments as Comptroller General, but to your continued association with GAO and a multitude of public and private sector organizations since your so-called "retirement" from federal service.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight a few well-known parts of your celebrated record, which include: development of the "Yellow Book" of government auditing Standards, expansion of GAO's work in program evaluation, the effectiveness of your personal diplomacy on Capitol Hill, the reorganization of GAO into issue areas, establishment of GAO's job planning processes, the revitalization of the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, and GAO's participation and leadership of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). Your work made believers out of many in GAO, the Congress, and other accountability professionals throughout the world who continue to recognize today that GAO's core values of accountability, integrity, and reliability are the very foundation of public trust and confidence.

The changes you effected during your 15-year tenure as Comptroller General allowed GAO's institutional role in government to expand and improve. You demonstrated a

unique mixture of energy, innovation, patience, and perseverance in being responsive to the Congress; ensuring the application of the standards of our profession; and preparing executives in all branches of government to understand, address, and resolve the problems that GAO uncovers.

Elmer, your legacy is with us in every new step and renewed effort at GAO. On behalf of the staff here at the General Accounting Office, and my fellow INTOSAI colleagues throughout the world, I extend the very best to you and your family on this joyous occasion.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. WALKER,

Comptroller General of the United States. ●

LYNDON A. WADE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I once heard Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund, say that "Service is the rent each of us pays for living—the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals." I can think of no greater example of that philosophy than Mr. Lyndon A. Wade.

Lyndon A. Wade has served as President of the Atlanta Urban League for over 30 years. Since 1968, under his leadership, this broad-based community and social service agency has affected major decisions and brought about changes in among other things, land and transportation planning, equal employment opportunities and minority employment in building and construction trades.

Currently, the League operates programs of service in the areas of employment, housing, education and youth services. The agency provides social services to over 3,000 people annually and is affiliated with the United Way Agency and also receives funding from city, county, state, and federal governments, foundations, and corporations.

Mr. Wade is a native Atlantan and a product of the Atlanta public schools. He received his BA from Morehouse College and his Masters degree in Social work from Atlanta University. He began his career as an assistant professor in Emory University's Department of Psychiatry, a position he occupied from 1963 to 1968.

Between 1971 and 1975, while serving as President of the Atlanta Urban League, Mr. Wade was appointed by Federal Judge Frank Hooper to chair the bi-racial Advisory Committee to the Atlanta Board of Education. This group was successful in forging the Atlanta Compromise which ended 15 years of protracted court struggle surrounding the desegregation of Atlanta's public schools.

From 1971 until 1985, Mr. Wade served on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority where he held the posts of Secretary, Chairman of the Development Committee and Vice-Chairman. He was one of the major architects of Marta's Affirmative Action Program which has