

TABLE 5.—EX-IM BANK GUARANTEES FOR BOEING COMPANY
(Dollars in millions)

Year	Guarantees for Boeing aircraft & parts	Percent of annual Ex-Im Bank guarantees
1996	\$1,154	22
1997	1,779	26
1998	2,541	50
1999	5,651	78

Source: Export-Import Bank of the United States annual reports.

BAGHDAD RESTRAINT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends the September 18, 2000, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald about second-guessing President George Bush's decision not to invade Iraq during the Gulf War. The editorial thoughtfully discusses the possible options facing President Bush and the reasons why his final decision was clearly the best option available in a world where perfect solutions do not exist.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Sept. 18, 2000]

BAGHDAD RESTRAINT REVISITED

The complaint is being voiced in the current campaign that the Bush administration erred during the Gulf War by failing to send a U.S. invasion force into the heart of Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein's regime.

Carrying out an "on to Baghdad" policy in 1991, it's claimed, would have spared the United States the headaches of dealing with Saddam's recalcitrant government over the past nine years. Public Pulse letters recently discussed this topic.

It's wishful thinking, however, to imagine that a U.S. takeover of Iraq would have neatly resolved the situation in the Persian Gulf. Far from bringing calm to the region, a U.S. or United Nations occupation of Iraq would have created new and difficult problems for this country.

A northward drive into Baghdad would have shattered the international coalition that President Bush had delicately assembled to support U.S. military action. The basis for the coalition, and for the United Nations resolutions which gave it legal legitimacy, was a concrete and limited goal; the expulsion of Iraqi forces from a sovereign country, Kuwait. A full-blown invasion of Iraq, perhaps complete with block-by-block fighting in the capital city, would have far exceeded that fundamental war goal.

Public support for Desert Storm was mild at best in many of the Arab and European countries whose governments stood by Bush. Had Bush adopted a topple-Saddam strategy, CNN videotape of American tanks patrolling the streets of Baghdad—a proud Arab city once the site of an Islamic empire—could well have triggered protest throughout the Arab world. It's a good bet, that U.S. occupation would have spurred tender-hearted Europeans to take to the streets to wail anew about the horrors of U.S. "imperialism." The eruption of hostility could have set back U.S. relations overseas for years.

Neither is it pleasant to contemplate what U.S. soldiers would have faced on the ground

in occupying Iraq. Just as British soldiers came under withering assault in Palestine in the 1940s and French occupiers reaped the whirlwind in Algeria in the 1950s, so the U.S. occupation of a volatile Arab country like Iraq could have brought great peril to the men and women of the U.S. military.

Because Iraq lacks strong national cohesion, a U.S. invasion could well have triggered a break-up of the country into three new entities: a Kurdish north, a Sunni center and a Shia south. That radical change in the Middle East equation would have meant a host of new challenges for the United States, ranging from Turkey's anxieties over the new Kurdish state to the likelihood of Iranian manipulations of the newly independent Shias along the Persian Gulf.

The larger point here is that foreign policy issues rarely can be resolved neatly. No matter what action is taken, new problems arise. Consider the 1989 invasion that U.S. forces mounted to topple Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega. Although the operation succeeded in ousting Noriega, Panama has continued to present the United States with new headaches. The U.S. operation restored civilian rule to the country, but that didn't stop Panama's leaders from pointedly rejecting a U.S. request last year to maintain an Air Force base at the Panama Canal. And Panama's stability is now threatened by guerrilla incursions from neighboring Colombia.

There is no reason to believe that a U.S. occupation of Iraq would have produced long-term results that were any better than those discouraging results in Panama.

George Bush had sound strategic reasons for rejecting a U.S. seizure of Baghdad. He settled on an imperfect solution, but in the real world, imperfect solutions are often the best that can be achieved.

A TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL "TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR TV" WEEK

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a worthy and important program, which is the National Taking Charge of Your TV Week. This program runs from September 24th through the 29th.

The National PTA, the National Cable Television Association, and Cable in the Classroom have collaborated to develop a program in which parents and teachers mentor their children on how to use the media effectively and watch television responsibly. By providing questionnaires and guidelines, this program helps parents and teachers evaluate and curtail the impact of television violence and commercialism on their children.

The program also provides information on TV ratings, how to monitor your children's television, and general research on the effects of television on children. However, the most important thing this program does is to have the TV temporarily turned off and families brought together.

Thanks to Vice President GORE, this topic has received much attention recently. But, his emphasis on the government as a solution to this problem is misguided. It is going to be through teacher and parental involvement that children learn responsible television watching.

And, it is programs like National Taking Charge of Your TV Week that will make our country stronger and our children safer.

FSC REPEAL AND EXTRA-TERRITORIAL INCOME EXCLUSION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. RANGEL, and I are offering these additional remarks on H.R. 4986 to correct a statement included in the Report of the Committee on Ways and Means on H.R. 4986. The explanation of the provision in the Committee Report includes a statement of the Committee's intention regarding the qualification of certain aircraft engines as qualifying foreign trade property under H.R. 4986.

In describing the Committee's intention as to the qualification of an aircraft engine as qualifying foreign trade property, the explanation in the Committee Report describes an engine that is "specifically designed to be separated from the airframe to which it is incorporated without significant damage to either the engine or the airframe." The use of the word "incorporated" in this context is not necessarily correct and was not intended by the Committee; rather, the Committee intended to use the word "attached." As the Committee Report indicates, the Committee specifically intends not to create any inference regarding the treatment of aircraft engines for any purpose other than the specific application of H.R. 4986.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESSENTIAL RURAL HOSPITAL PRESERVATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Essential Rural Hospital Preservation Act. This legislation provides a cost-effective means of providing assistance to those small rural hospitals who are struggling with the unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. As those of us who represent rural areas can attest to, rural hospitals are desperately in need of such assistance. According to a survey conducted by Texas CPAs in April of 2000, the operating margin for hospitals outside a Standard Metropolitan Area with under 50 licensed beds pre-BBA was \$26,000,000 while the operating margin post-BBA was negative \$7,900,000. Reimbursement has been reduced by over \$34 million since the BBA, while at the time the average rural hospital has incurred uncompensated and charity charges of \$1.1 million since the changes contained in the Balanced Budget

Act went into effect. Unless action is taken this year to provide assistance for these hospitals, many of them will be forced to close their doors, leaving many rural areas without access to hospital services.

I believe I can speak for all of my colleagues when I say that while none of us want to endanger the Medicare trust fund, we also want to ensure that Medicare reforms do not drive valuable health care providers into bankruptcy. After all, denying Medicare recipients in rural areas access to quality health care breaks the promise the government makes to the American people when it requires them to pay taxes to finance the Medicare trust fund that they will receive quality health care in their golden years.

Therefore, I am pleased to advance this proposal, which was developed by experts in rural health care in my district, which provides help for rural health care without endangering the soundness of the Medicare trust fund. The proposal consists of four simple changes in current Medicare laws for "Essential Service Hospitals." An Essential Service Hospital is defined as a hospital located in a non-Metropolitan Statistical Area with 50 state-licensed beds or less. The specifics of the legislation are:

1. A wage index for Essential Service Hospitals set at 1.0—Essential Service Hospitals receive 26 percent less Medicare Reimbursement than hospitals in MSA area. This places rural areas at disadvantage in competing for high-quality employees with hospitals in urban areas. Setting the wage index at 1.0 will enhance the ability of rural hospitals to attract the best personal and thus ensure residents of rural areas can continue to receive quality health care.

2. Allow Essential Service Hospitals to treat 100 percent of Medicare copay and deductions which become hospital bad debts as an allowable cost—The BBA of 1997 reduced the amount of bad debts incurred because of uncollected Medicare copayments and deductions that hospitals can submit to Medicare for reimbursement as an allowable cost. This places an especially tough burden on Essential Service Hospitals which often have a high percentage of bad debts because they tend to have a high percentage of low-income populations among their clientele.

3. Exempt Essential Service Hospitals from the Outpatient Payment System (PPS)—Since rural hospitals lack the volume necessary to achieve a fair reimbursement rate under PPS, it makes no sense to apply PPS to these hospitals. Exempting Essential Service Hospitals from PPS assures that they will have their reimbursement rate determined by a formula that matches their unique situation.

4. Provides a 20 percent Medicare Disproportionate Share (DSH) payment to Essential Service Hospitals—Since small rural hospitals tend to serve a larger number of low-income persons than the average hospital, they have a particular need for Medicare DSH payments. However, many of these hospitals are not benefiting from the DSH program, this legislation will help ensure these hospitals received the support from Medicare they need to continue providing vital health care to low-income residents of rural areas.

Considering that the BBA of 1997 has resulted in Medicare savings of over \$50 billion more than projected by Congress surely it is not to much to ask that Congress ensure

Medicare patients in rural areas are not denied access to quality health care services because of the unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Amendment. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for rural hospitals by cosponsoring the Essential Rural Hospital Preservation Act.

WILDFIRES IN THE WEST RAISE QUESTION ABOUT ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the September 8, 2000, Norfolk Daily News. The editorial questions the Administration's actions restricting the construction of wilderness roads which have allowed preventive measures designed to avoid blazing forest fires.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Sept. 8, 2000]

POETIC JUSTICE IN ACCUSATIONS—CLINTON ADMINISTRATION DESERVES CRITICISM FOR POLICY THAT AIDED FIRES

President Clinton is no more to blame for the wildfires ravaging the West than he is responsible for the nation's economic prosperity. But there is a certain poetic justice in political efforts to portray him and Vice President Al Gore as villains in the frightening destruction of thousands of acres of forest.

Several Western politicians—who, not coincidentally, are Republicans and allies of George W. Bush—have taken particular aim at a sweeping White House executive order preventing the building of large numbers of wilderness roads needed for forest-thinning by the lumber industry. The rationale of the order was that the lumber industry would do critical damage to the forests. But some critics have maintained that, by cutting some smaller trees and removing the underbrush, the industry can help keep forests healthy and prevent small fires from becoming raging blazes.

Vice President Gore, who is constantly lambasting industries in his presidential campaign for supposed instances of greed and chicanery, was an outspoken supporter of the executive order. Judging by the language he used, his thesis seems to be that making profits from trees is a premeditated and soulless insult to nature. A number of experts—and not just Republicans and industry spokesmen—agree, however, that some controlled lumbering activity in these areas can be a blessing to nature.

Mr. Gore's business-bashing rhetoric and other aspects of the Clinton roadless policy suggest it was at least as much an effort to score political points as an effort to protect wilderness. The administration, as a result, seems to have earned the politically motivated accusations being tossed its way during this dreadful summer of fires.

In the end, of course, the fires are mainly a result of a very hot, very dry summer and of unfortunate no-burn federal policies that scarcely made their first appearance when President Clinton was elected.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore simply happen to have been in office when the fires occurred, just as they simply happened to be in office when the end of the Cold War, high-tech productivity and Federal Reserve anti-inflation policies helped create good economic times.

TRIBUTE TO CAVE SPRING NATURE PARK

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Missouri's treasured historical and natural sites as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary. Twenty-two years ago as a Missouri State Representative, I had the privilege to join the members of the Cave Spring Association in creating and preserving the Cave Spring Nature Park as one of our country's celebrated historical sites.

The roots run deep in the area now named the Cave Spring Nature Park. From as far back as pre-pioneer times this site was referred to as the "Osage Trace." This name was attributed to the Indians who occupied the area: the Osage, Sac, Kansa, and Fox tribes. Later the area and its trails were surveyed and soon opened as trading routes to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Under the ownership of Jesse Barnes, this land would become one of the principal campgrounds for pioneer settlers, traders, and wagon trains heading west to discover the new territory. The cave spring was producing up to a million gallons of water a day to replenish the travelers and their horses, as well as creating a lush landscape.

It was this breathtaking landscape that would later attract horseback riders and picnickers including the young Harry Truman and Bess Wallace during their courtship. A picture of the infamous cave at this site would later be featured in a 1945 Life Magazine edition entitled "Truman's Missouri." From 1857 to 1877 the Cave Spring was owned by Harry Truman's grandfather, Solomon Young. Soon the Truman family would build their family farm just on the outskirts of the Cave Spring area, which is today appropriately known as Grandview. In the following years the Cave Spring would be the recognized by the Daughter's of the American Revolution as one of the foremost significant sites along the historic Santa Fe Trail. Unfortunately, over the course of the next few decades the Cave Spring would fall into a period of dormancy and neglect in which the cave itself was in a "lost" state in which its whereabouts were unknown. It was not until the construction of a church that a large sinkhole was created which revealed the cave and subsequently the spring was rediscovered to a new world of appreciation. This brought new exploration and celebration of the Cave Spring and its surroundings. Soon after the rediscovery, the Cave Spring Association was formed to ensure that this site would receive the appreciation it has earned to ensure that its legacy will live on forever. Since 1975 the Cave Spring Nature Park and Historic Site has provided the northwestern Missouri region with a variety of natural and historic opportunities, specializing in enrichment programs for children, young adults, and families. The Association has worked tirelessly to preserve this site and the rich history that it bears.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the Cave Spring Nature Park and Historic Site and the entire Cave Spring Association for 25 years of service to the Greater Kansas City community.