

Bears Bridge in this bill as requested by the President is vital to addressing the emergency needs on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, this is clearly a Federal responsibility. A Federal project created Lake Sakakawea and flooded a significant portion of the reservation, thus creating the need for this bridge. In 1992, Congress accepted the recommendations of the Joint Tribal Advisory Commission, which studied the impact of the Garrison Reservoir, created by the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Project, on the Three Affiliated Tribes. The Commission found that the Three Affiliated Tribes are entitled to replacement of infrastructure lost by the creation of the Garrison Dam and Lake Sakakawea. The Federal Government has a responsibility to the Three Affiliated Tribes to play a major role in providing for the infrastructure necessitated by the permanent flood created by this project.

Mr. President, will the Chairman of the Subcommittee also support funding this bridge as recommended by President Clinton?

Mr. SHELBY. I recognize that the Four Bears Bridge is an important priority for my colleagues and I will work with Senator DORGAN, Senator CONRAD, Indian Affairs Committee Chairman CAMPBELL and Indian Affairs Committee Vice Chairman INOUE to identify funding for the bridge in the Transportation appropriations bill when it goes to conference.●

TRIBUTE TO THE SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the most successful college baseball regular season in history. This year, the Savannah State University, SSU, Tigers set a new National Collegiate Athletic Association record for the most consecutive wins—an incredible 46. Led by their coach, Jamie Rigdon, a former Savannah State graduate, the Tigers played with all their heart despite the knowledge that they would not be able to participate in NCAA Regional Playoffs because they are in the process of moving from NCAA Division II to Division I.

The historic season began with twelve straight victories over their fellow Division II rivals. In February, the Tigers defeated Florida A&M in what would become the first of many Division I opponents to meet their match in Savannah State. As the season wore on, the Tigers kept playing hard each and every day and, on March 19 they were rewarded for their efforts with an amazing 34th consecutive victory, thereby breaking the NCAA record. However, Savannah State's celebration was cut short when it learned that a Division III school in Ohio reported that it won 40 consecutive games the season before but had failed to notify the NCAA's official record keepers.

While the media and officials debated which team held the record, the Tigers kept winning. In the end, the Savannah State University baseball team had won an astonishing 46 consecutive games, shattering every record in the books and laying indisputable claim to the most successful regular season in college baseball history.

In addition to their consecutive win streak, the Tigers compiled many impressive statistics this year. For example, each SSU starter batted over .330 for the season, the starters fielding average was .947, and the team's earned run average was an incredible 2.30 for the entire season.

I recognize each Tiger player from the record setting team: Brett Higgins, captain; Torrie Pinkins; Derron Street; Jarvis Johnson; Robert Settle; Roderick Ricks; Marcus Griffin; Mike Eusebio; Lamar Leverett; Marcus Johnson; Richard Castillo; Guy Thigpen; Chris Cesario; Charles Brown; Isaiah Brown; James Runkle; Jeremy Batayias; J.J. Stevens; James Greig; and Shantwone Dent.

Savannah State University President, Carlton E. Brown, spoke highly of the student athletes saying that, "the members of the Savannah State University baseball team are not just extraordinary athletes, they are exceptional students and model citizens. Even without the prospect of post-season play, the team put its heart and soul into each game. The team exemplifies the Savannah State University motto, which is 'You can get anywhere from here.'" I agree with President Brown that these young men can get anywhere with their education from Savannah State just as they went from the baseball diamond and into the record books. While I do not doubt that the Tigers could have been very successful in the playoffs, I hope their tremendous season is simply one remarkable achievement in a life where they make history, on and off the field.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2722. An act to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Ed W. Freeman, James K. Okubo, and Andrew J. Smith.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-9238. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a notice relative to a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9239. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to danger pay; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9240. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9241. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license to Sweden; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9242. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of export licenses relative to Norway, Sweden, Greece, and Turkey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9243. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Turkey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9244. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9245. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9246. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9247. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9248. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9249. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9250. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9251. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9252. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9253. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "25 CFR Part 170, Distribution of Fiscal Year 2000 Indian Reservation Roads Funds" (RIN1076-AD99) received on June 12, 2000; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-9254. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Placement of Gamma-Butyrolactone in List I of the Controlled Substances Act" (RIN1117-AA52) received on May 15, 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9255. A communication from the Rules Administrator, Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Tort Claims Act" (RIN1120-AA94) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9256. A communication from the Rules Administrator, Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Contempt of Court Commitments" (RIN1120-AA94) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9257. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Business Size Standards; Help Supply Services" (RIN3245-AE17) received on June 14, 2000; to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-9258. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Business Size Regulations; Size Standards and the North American Industry Classification System" (RIN3245-AE07) received on June 14, 2000; to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-9259. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NAFTA Procurement Threshold" (DFARS Case 2000-D011) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9260. A communication from the Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transactions Other Than Contracts, Grants, or Cooperative Agreements for Prototype Projects" (RIN0790-AG79) received on June 1, 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9261. A communication from the Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,

Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transactions Other Than Contracts, Grants, or Cooperative Agreements for Prototype Projects" (RIN0790-AG79) received on June 1, 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9262. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Waiver of Cost Accounting Standards" (DFARS Case 2000-D012) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2046: A bill to reauthorize the Next Generation Internet Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-310).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. L. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2747. A bill to expand the Federal tax refund intercept program to cover children who are not minors; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 2748. A bill to prohibit the rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. L. CHAFFEE (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2747. A bill to expand the Federal tax refund intercept program to cover children who are not minors; to the Committee on Finance.

CHILD SUPPORT FAIRNESS AND TAX REFUND INTERCEPTION ACT OF 2000

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined today by Senators KOHL, GRAHAM, and LINCOLN in introducing the Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000.

The Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000 closes a loophole in current federal statute by expanding the eligibility of one of the most effective means of enforcing child support orders—that of intercepting the federal tax refunds of parents who are delinquent in paying their court-ordered financial support for their children.

Under current law, eligibility for the federal tax refund offset program is limited to cases involving minors, parents on public assistance, or adult children who are disabled. Custodial parents of adult, non-disabled children are not assisted under the IRS tax refund intercept program, and in many cases, they must work multiple jobs in order to make ends meet. Some of these parents have gone into debt to put their college-age children through school.

The legislation we are introducing today will address this inequity by expanding the eligibility of the federal tax refund offset program to cover parents of all children, regardless of whether the child is disabled or a minor. This legislation will not create a cause of action for a custodial parent to seek additional child support. It will merely assist the custodial parent in recovering debt that is owed for a level of child support that was determined by a court.

Improving our child support enforcement programs is an issue that should be of concern to us all as it remains a serious problem in the United States. According to the most recent Government statistics, there are approximately twelve million active cases in which a child support order requires a noncustodial parent to contribute to the support of his or her child. Of the \$13.7 billion owed in 1998, only \$6.9 billion has been collected. It is important to note that this data does not include reporting from many states, including California, New York, Florida, and Illinois. In 1998, only 23 percent of children entitled to child support through our public system received some form of payment, despite Federal and State efforts. Similar shortfalls in previous years bring the combined delinquency total to approximately \$47 billion. We can fix this injustice in our Federal tax refund offset program by helping some of our most needy constituents receive the financial assistance they are owed.

While the administration has been somewhat successful in using tax refunds as a tool to collect child support payments, more needs to be done. The IRS tax refund interception program has only collected one-third of tardy child support payments. The Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000 will remove the current barrier to fulfilling an individual's obligation to pay child support, while helping to provide for the future of our Nation's children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and I ask unanimous consent that the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

S. 2747

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following: