

not alone. To commemorate the lives of these children with a special day would pay them an honor and would help to bring comfort to the hearts of their bereaved families.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the oversight hearing regarding Natural Gas Supply previously scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Tuesday, July 25 at 9:30 a.m. has been postponed until Wednesday, July 26 at 9:30 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

For further information, please call Dan Kish at (202) 224-8276 or Jo Meuse at (202) 224-4756.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, July 26, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building to mark up pending legislation to be followed by an oversight hearing on the Activities of the National Indian Gaming Commission; to be followed by a legislative hearing on S. 2526, to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Those wishing additional information may contact Committee staff at (202) 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 21, 2000, to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Mr. Robert S. LaRossa to be Undersecretary for International Trade at the Department of Commerce; and Ms. Marjory E. Searing to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (US&FCS) of the Department of Commerce.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 21, 2000, for purposes of conducting a Full Committee business meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. The purpose of this business meeting is to consider H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet in executive session on Friday, July 21, 2000.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREST AND PUBLIC LANDS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 21, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an oversight hearing. The subcommittee will receive testimony on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement implementing the October 1999 announcement by President Clinton to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest lands for increased protection.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNTS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 682, H.R. 208.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 208) to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments; as follows:

(Omit the part in black brackets and insert the part printed in italic.)

H.R. 208

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

SECTION 1. ELIGIBLE ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8432 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j)(1) For the purpose of this subsection—
“(A) the term ‘eligible rollover distribution’ has the meaning given such term by section 402(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(B) the term ‘qualified trust’ has the meaning given such term by section 402(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(2) An employee or Member may contribute to the Thrift Savings Fund an eligible rollover distribution [from a qualified trust.] *that a qualified trust could accept under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.* A contribution made under this subsection shall be made in the form described in section 401(a)(31) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In the case of an eligible rollover distribution, the maximum amount transferred

to the Thrift Savings Fund shall not exceed the amount which would otherwise have been included in the employee's or Member's gross income for Federal income tax purposes.

“(3) The Executive Director shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.”.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2000, or such earlier date as the Executive Director (as defined by section 8401 of title 5, United States Code) may by regulation prescribe, but not before September 1, 2000.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect at the earliest practicable date after September 30, 2000, as determined by the Executive Director in regulations.

SEC. 2. IMMEDIATE PARTICIPATION IN THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN.

(a) ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN WAITING PERIODS FOR PURPOSES OF EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS.—Paragraph (4) of section 8432(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(4) The Executive Director shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the following:

“(A) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2), an employee or Member described in such subparagraph shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to first make an election under this subsection beginning on the date of commencing service or, if that is not administratively feasible, beginning on the earliest date thereafter that such an election becomes administratively feasible, as determined by the Executive Director.

“(B) An employee or Member described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to first make an election under this subsection (based on the appointment or election described in such subparagraph) beginning on the date of commencing service pursuant to such appointment or election or, if that is not administratively feasible, beginning on the earliest date thereafter that such an election becomes administratively feasible, as determined by the Executive Director.

“(C) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this paragraph, contributions under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c) shall not be payable with respect to any pay period before the earliest pay period for which such contributions would otherwise be allowable under this subsection if this paragraph had not been enacted.

“(D) Sections 8351(a)(2), 8440a(a)(2), 8440b(a)(2), 8440c(a)(2), and 8440d(a)(2) shall be applied in a manner consistent with the purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), to the extent those subparagraphs can be applied with respect thereto.

“(E) Nothing in this paragraph shall affect paragraph (3).”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 8432(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first sentence by striking “(b)(1)” and inserting “(b)”;

(B) by amending the second sentence to read as follows: “Contributions under this subsection pursuant to such an election shall, with respect to each pay period for which such election remains in effect, be made in accordance with a program of regular contributions provided in regulations prescribed by the Executive Director.”.

(2) Section 8432(b)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(or any election allowable by virtue of paragraph (4))” after “subparagraph (A)”.

(3) Section 8432(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(A), an” and inserting “An”.

(4) Section 8439(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "who makes contributions or" after "for each individual" and by striking "section 8432(c)(1)" and inserting "section 8432".

(5) Section 8439(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: "Nothing in this paragraph shall be considered to limit the dissemination of information only to the times required under the preceding sentence."

(6) Sections 8440a(a)(2) and 8440d(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, are amended by striking all after "subject to" and inserting "this chapter."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2000, or such earlier date as the Executive Director (as defined by section 8401 of title 5, United States Code) may by regulation prescribe, but not before September 1, 2000.]

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect at the earliest practicable date after September 30, 2000, as determined by the Executive Director in regulations.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, until the amendments made by this section take effect, title 5, United States Code, shall be applied as if this section had not been enacted.

[SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RETIREMENT.]

[(a) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8423(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, effective with respect to contributions for pay periods beginning on or after October 1, 2000, the normal-cost percentage used for purposes of any computation under this subsection shall be equal to—

“(A) the percentage that would otherwise apply if this paragraph had not been enacted, plus

“(B) .01 of 1 percentage point.”.

[(b) SUPPLEMENTAL LIABILITY.—For purposes of applying section 8423(b) of title 5, United States Code, and section 857(b) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4071f(b)), all amounts shall be determined as if this section had never been enacted.

[(c) LIMITATION ON SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—Notwithstanding section 8423(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, the additional Government contributions required to be made by reason of the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be made out of any amounts available to the employing agency involved, other than any appropriation, fund, or other amounts available for the payment of employee salaries or benefits.

[(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 307 of the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-335; 5 U.S.C. 8401 note) is amended by inserting “, including the additional amount required under section 8423(a)(5)(B) of such title 5,” after “Federal Employees' Retirement System”.]

SEC. 3. COURT ORDERS AFFECTING REFUNDS.

(a) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8342(j)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(j)(1)(A) Payment of the lump-sum credit under subsection (a) may be made only if the spouse, if any, and any former spouse of the employee or Member are notified of the employee or Member's application.

“(B) The Office shall prescribe regulations under which the lump-sum credit shall not be paid without the consent of a spouse or former spouse of the employee or Member where the Office has received such additional information and documentation as the Office may require that—

“(i) a court order bars payment of the lump-sum credit in order to preserve the court's ability to award an annuity under section 8341(h) or section 8345(j); or

“(ii) payment of the lump-sum credit would extinguish the entitlement of the spouse or former spouse, under a court order on file with the Office, to a survivor annuity under section 8341(h) or to any portion of an annuity under section 8345(j).”.

(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8424(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b)(1)(A) Payment of the lump-sum credit under subsection (a) may be made only if the spouse, if any, and any former spouse of the employee or Member are notified of the employee or Member's application.

“(B) The Office shall prescribe regulations under which the lump-sum credit shall not be paid without the consent of a spouse or former spouse of the employee or Member where the Office has received such additional information or documentation as the Office may require that—

“(i) a court order bars payment of the lump-sum credit in order to preserve the court's ability to award an annuity under section 8445 or 8467; or

“(ii) payment of the lump-sum credit would extinguish the entitlement of the spouse or former spouse, under a court order on file with the Office, to a survivor annuity under section 8445 or to any portion of an annuity under section 8467.”.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendments be agreed to.

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

The committee amendments were agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT. I ask unanimous consent the bill, as amended, be read the 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 (H.R. 208), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4008, AS MODIFIED—H.R. 4461

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 4008 to H.R. 4461, previously agreed to, be modified with the change that is now at the desk.

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

The amendment (No. 4008), as modified, is as follows:

On page 13, line 13, strike “\$62,207,000” and insert “\$62,707,000”.

On page 13, line 16, strike “\$121,350,000” and insert “\$120,850,000”.

AMENDING THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 693, S. 2812.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2812) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide a waiver of

the oath of renunciation and allegiance for naturalization of aliens having certain disabilities.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 2812) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2812

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

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF OATH OF RENUNCIATION AND ALLEGIANCE FOR NATURALIZATION OF ALIENS HAVING CERTAIN DISABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The last sentence of section 337(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1448(a)) is amended to read as follows: “The Attorney General may waive the taking of the oath if in the opinion of the Attorney General the applicant for naturalization is an individual with a disability, or a child, who is unable to understand or communicate an understanding of the meaning of the oath. If the Attorney General waives the oath for such an individual, the individual shall be considered to have met the requirements of section 316(a)(3) as to attachment to the Constitution and well disposition to the United States.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to individuals who applied for naturalization before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 24, 2000

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, July 24. I further ask consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have 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 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, with the following exceptions: Senator DURBIN, or his designee, from 12 to 1; Senator THOMAS, or his designee, from 1 to 2.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, when the Senate convenes at 12 noon, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will turn to any available appropriations bill. Amendments are expected to be offered thereto, with any votes ordered to occur at 6 p.m. on Monday. I thank all Senators for their cooperation.