

programs historically have not received the necessary federal funding critical to supply invaluable services to the people of Tennessee. Our state is one of only five in the nation that provides public transportation to citizens in each county, with eleven rural and twelve urban transit systems servicing all 95 counties. To fund this effort and compensate for lower federal funding in recent years, it is my hope that the Conference Committee will recognize that the \$12 million funding level recommended by the House is fully justified for public transportation initiatives in Tennessee. I have shared my concerns with Senators MURRAY and SHELBY about the importance of effective transit programs in a growing state like ours and I hope that my friends will do all that they can to ensure that Tennessee's public transportation system will be provided \$12 million in federal funding when the Conference Committee convenes. Again let me reiterate my appreciation to the Chairwoman and Ranking Member. I look forward to working with both of you on this issue.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I strongly support the words of my good friend and colleague from Tennessee. I, too, would like to thank Chairwoman MURRAY and Ranking Member SHELBY for their leadership on the Transportation Subcommittee. I give my full support to developing effective public transportation programs that serve the needs of all Tennesseans. Our public transit systems have not historically seen the level of federal support they need to develop properly. As our cities grow and our transportation needs change 279 active urban transit buses now exceed their 12-year useful service life. Additionally, there are 218 rural transit vans with mileage in excess of the 100,000-mile service life. The \$12 million funding level provided in the House will improve public safety and reduce maintenance costs while ensuring that an adequate infrastructure is in place to better serve all the counties of our growing state. It is my sincere hope that the Conference Committee will restore the full funding level recommended by the House.

Mr. FRIST. I would like to echo the sentiment of my friend and colleague and reiterate the need to develop and expand public transportation services in our state. The federal contribution to these services has been low for some time. I look forward to working with the Conference Committee to act in the interests of those who depend upon efficient public transportation by providing the full \$12 million, as provided by the House.

Mr. THOMPSON. I thank my colleague from Tennessee for his work on this issue of great importance to thousands of our constituents. I eagerly await with him for action by the Conference Committee.

Mrs. MURRAY. I have duly noted the concerns of my friends from Tennessee and look forward to working with them on this issue.

Mr. SHELBY. I thank the Senator from Tennessee for raising their concerns and I also will work with my friends from Tennessee to address their concerns during conference.

Mr. FRIST. I thank my friends and colleagues. Mr. President, I yield the balance of my time.

ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE PROGRAM

Ms. SNOWE. I thank the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation for working closely with me and Senator COLLINS on projects of importance to our state, as well as critical national priorities. Your efforts are very much appreciated. As you know, one issue of great importance to my home state of Maine, as a rural state with many small, remote communities, is the U.S. Department of Transportation Essential Air Service—EAS—program. Air service in rural areas is not simply a luxury, it is an imperative. Any municipality or small business owner will tell that without quality, affordable air service, economic development is virtually impossible. The EAS program is designed to ensure that small communities that were served by commercial air carriers prior to deregulation maintain scheduled air service. Today, the EAS program serves over 80 rural communities nationwide. The reality of deregulated air service is that four of Maine's six commercial airports—including the State Capital's airport in Augusta—rely on EAS to have any service to all. Unfortunately, the Administration has proposed a change in the eligibility criteria for the program which would result in the elimination of air service to a number of rural communities nationwide, including Augusta.

Ms. COLLINS. I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee as well, and would like to add to what my colleague from Maine has said regarding the EAS program, which is so critical in Maine. The EAS program sustains important economic, social, and quality of life benefits for the rural communities it serves. In Maine's case, Augusta, Maine, the State of Capital, would lose air service. Commercial air service in our Capital is absolutely crucial. Loss of service would undermine the region's economy and hinder the operation of the State government.

Mrs. MURRAY. I am aware of your concern and I can assure you that during the Senate-House conference on this bill, we will keep your views in mind.

Mr. SHELBY. Likewise, I am well aware of your support for the program, and I know how important it is to rural areas including the community of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. I will work with the Chair during the conference to address the concerns you have raised.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you very much. We appreciate your willingness to address this important matter. We look forward to working with you as the appropriations process continues.

Mrs. SNOWE. Once again, I would like to thank the Subcommittee for its strong support and its willingness to make an effort to address issues of concern to rural states like Maine. Thank you both very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the yeas and nays on the bill be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2299), as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DASCHLE. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to executive session to consider en bloc the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 201, 251, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 301, and 302; that the nominees be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Jack Dyer Crouch, II, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Gordon H. Mansfield, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Eric M. Bost, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

William T. Hawks, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Joseph J. Jen, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

James R. Moseley, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

J.B. Penn, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Harvey Pitt, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2002.

Harvey Pitt, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2007. (Reappointment)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Dan R. Brouillette, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Josefina Carbonell, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sue McCourt Cobb, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica.

Mercer Reynolds, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Switzerland, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Russell F. Freeman, of North Dakota, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belize.

Michael E. Guest, of South Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

Stuart A. Bernstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Denmark.

Charles A. Heimbold, Jr., of Connecticut, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Sweden.

Jim Nicholson, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary United States of America to the Holy See.

Thomas J. Miller, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Larry C. Napper, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Thomas C. Hubbard, of Tennessee, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary United States of America to the Republic of Korea.

Marie T. Huhtala, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary United States of America to Malaysia.

Franklin L. Lavin, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

Roger Francisco Noriega, of Kansas, to be Permanent Representatives of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador.

Clark Kent Ervin, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Department of State.

NOMINATION OF JOHN WALTERS TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to turn to the nomination of John Walters, the President's choice for drug czar, who also deserves a confirmation hearing so he can offer his views on how to reduce drug abuse in our nation.

With all the damage drugs are doing to our children and to adult Americans, why in the world is the Senate dragging its feet on even having a confirmation hearing for our nation's highest ranking drug policy official?

John is uniquely qualified for the job of drug czar.

He distinguished himself during the first Bush administration as Deputy Director for Supply Reduction, Chief of Staff and National Security Director, and Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. During the administration of President Reagan, John served as Chief of Staff and Counselor to the Secretary of Education, as well as Assistant to the Secretary, the Secretary's Representative to the National Drug Policy Board, and the Secretary's Representative to the Domestic Policy Council's Health Policy Working Group.

John is currently serving as president of the Philanthropy Roundtable, a national association of charitable donors who are doing great work in our communities. He was previously president of the New Citizenship Project, an organization created to promote greater civic participation in our national life.

John also served on the Council on Crime in America, a bipartisan commission on violent crime co-chaired by Bill Bennett and President Carter's Attorney General Griffin Bell. And, in 1988, John created the Madison Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to early childhood education and drug abuse prevention.

Mr. President, John Walters has now waited almost 2 months for a confirmation hearing. I urge my colleagues to move forward on his nomination.

NOMINATION OF JOSEFINA CARBONELL TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AGING

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I want to voice my enthusiastic support for Josefina Carbonell's nomination to be Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services. She has served her community admirably, and is highly respected for her work with the Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers of Miami-Dade County. This is an organization she founded in 1972. Under her leadership, it has grown from a one-site project into the largest aging, health and nutrition program in Florida and the largest Hispanic geriatric health and human service organization in the nation. Today Little Havana operates twenty-one different sites, serving over 55,000 registered clients. The program served over one million meals to 50,000 older Americans in 2000, and now operate six senior centers and

three adult care centers, and while providing services through numerous federal health-care and employment programs.

As a young girl, Ms. Carbonell came to this country from Cuba and dedicated her life to serving her community. Her contributions to the well-being of the greater Miami community are well-known, and, I would say some have become legendary.

Her many years living and working among South Florida's large senior population and her direct hands-on experience providing services for these citizens make her a superb choice to be Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services.

In Josefina Carbonell, our seniors will have an outstanding advocate in Washington. I look forward to working with her to improve both the quality of life for our senior citizens and the services we provide them.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent the majority leader may, after consultation with the Republican leader, turn to the consideration of the export administration bill, S. 149, but not before September 4, 2001; further, that the Senate now turn to the consideration of H.R. 2620, the VA-HUD appropriations, and Senator MIKULSKI be recognized to offer the text of the Senate bill, S. 1216, as a substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there is objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object, but if I could just have 2 minutes before we go to VA-HUD for some final cleanup on the Transportation bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Reserving the right to object, could I have 2 minutes after Senator MURRAY?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask that be part of the unanimous consent request.

Mr. MCCAIN. Reserving the right to object, I reserve 2 minutes after the Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. DASCHLE. I add that one, too.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the next rollcall vote, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of ASA HUTCHINSON to be Administrator for Drug Enforcement, that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided among Senators