

unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY PAUL O'NEILL ON BONUS DEPRECIATION AMENDMENT BEFORE THE SENATE

The economic stimulus bill under consideration in the Senate includes a 30% bonus depreciation provision which expires in one year. Senator Gordon Smith has introduced an amendment for consideration on the Senate floor that would make the same bonus depreciation available for 3 years. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill made the following comment:

The short period of eligibility for new investment under the base proposal would result in no stimulus to the kind of job creating major projects that are fundamental to our growing economy. Under the base proposal, a project begun tomorrow must be completed by December 31 of this year to get any benefit. Senator Gordon Smith is right to propose an amendment extending the 30% bonus depreciation provisions to 3 years, so that more investment takes place and more jobs are created. Senator Smith's amendment greatly enhances the job creation that will be generated by the bonus depreciation provisions under consideration in the Senate.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I want to do this in concert with the majority. But I am asking for the yeas and nays and am anxious to know at what point either Senator can get a vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are in the process of getting consent on the Senator's matter and other matters for tomorrow. I think we will be able to work it out soon.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. I thank my friend from Nevada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Friday, January 25—tomorrow—the time until 10:30 a.m. be equally divided and controlled for debate with respect to the Smith of Oregon amendment; that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate vote in relation to the amendment, with no intervening amendment in order prior to the disposition of the Smith amendment; further, that on Friday the next amendment be one offered by the majority leader or his designee regarding unemployment insurance; that following the presentation of that amendment, and a brief explanation, the amendment be temporarily laid aside and that Senator BOND or his designee offer the next Republican amendment regarding small business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the amendment of Senator Smith tomorrow morning, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 644 and 645; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, and there be 10 minutes for debate under Senator HARKIN's control, and upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate vote on each nomination; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, any further statements thereon be printed in the RECORD, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent to order the yeas and nays on both nominations with one show of seconds.

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

Mr. REID. I do ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for a period not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

GUANTANAMO, CUBA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, tomorrow a small bipartisan delegation, of which I will be part, will go to Guantanamo, Cuba to see for ourselves directly the questioning process in trying to elicit information from the detainees, the unlawful combatants, the prisoners, whatever you want to call them.

I think in a lot of the commentary that has come out about this—and this is one of the reasons I want to go; I

want to see for myself how these detainees are being kept and how the process goes about trying to elicit information from them—it seems what we call them and the question of humane treatment is certainly a legitimate question, but I can't imagine, although I will see for myself tomorrow, that the United States is not giving anything but humane treatment. That is the character, that is the nature of our people. And certainly with as much attention on Guantanamo, it is certainly going to be the case of humane treatment.

What I want to find out is, are we getting information? We are in a war against terrorists. Many of these detainees are suspected to be some of the most ruthless and lethal of the terrorists. Therefore, we need to get as much information from them as we can in order to help prevent the kind of tragedies that this Nation went through on September 11.

As we survey the situation—and I have been to Guantanamo Naval Base years ago—I am quite interested to see how we are going about the process of eliciting this information from them.

Interestingly, there are a few other detainees in Guantanamo, not many in number, but very important to us in this country. There are eight Haitians detained for immigration reasons. There are 27 Cubans detained because of the policies of administrations, both past and present, that in enforcing the immigration laws do not allow anyone from a foreign land just to come to the United States; thus, intercepted on the high seas, be they Haitians or Cubans, certainly small in number but important in each of their cases.

In most of the cases of the Cuban detainees, 25 of the 27 have already been interviewed and determined that they are eligible to go to a third country. They do not want to return to Cuba. They are not eligible to come to the United States—the process of finding a third country that will receive them. I want to see firsthand for myself and talk to some of these people to see that each one of them, both the Haitian group and the Cuban group, have that personal attention. I will have a followup with our staff to see that that process is carried on in an orderly and prompt fashion.

This trip tomorrow is a direct result of having just been with a delegation of a total of nine of us into central Asia, including Afghanistan. What we saw there—and I gave a report to the Senate yesterday and I will not repeat it; it was an optimistic report reflecting the enthusiasm and the determination expressed in the faces of our young people, our young men and women in uniform serving our country in that part of the world and serving very successfully.

As a followup to that, at the end of that trip, it started occurring to a number of us, bipartisan, that we wanted to make this trip to Guantanamo.

That is what we will do. Then I will report to the Senate next week upon our return.

MIAMI HURRICANES

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, yesterday at the time of what we call a quorum call, what others in the street lingo might say is a recess, I took to the floor and with levity in my words spoke about some of the recent college bowl games, of which the State of Florida played such a prominent part, having three of our major teams in major bowls, all three of which were successful.

I am going to take the occasion today of offering a resolution for the national champion, the national champion, University of Miami Hurricanes, in college football. It is now a university that is quite accustomed to national championships, having won so many of them in the past, but it is now a university that is led by a person who is near and dear to the hearts of many in Washington, including the Presiding Officer. Dr. Donna Shalala is the new President.

She took over the reigns in June of the University of Miami. She has been so well accepted so quickly and is so loved in the Miami community. And then no sooner does she take the reigns and is so immediately successful in her leadership of the university, but that her team wins the national championship undefeated for the season.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity.

HONORING DAVE THOMAS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to support the Senate resolution honoring Dave Thomas, founder of the successful Wendy's restaurants. His death is a loss to the business and entrepreneurial world, the most powerful engine in the American economy. He opened doors for thousands of young people who used Wendy's as entry-level employment that launched their future. He was a symbol and shining example of leadership that one could be proud to be associated with. But this man was more than Wendy's. The sign that carried Wendy's logo stood for more than just tasty, square hamburgers. The little freckled-faced girl represented much more.

I knew Dave through the Shrine of North America. As a Shriner, he exhibited his dedication to children across this country by supporting the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children and the three Shrine Burn Centers. He was a living example of the phrase, "No man stands so tall that stoops to help a kid." He had a passion for thousands of children who are caught in the circumstance of adoption. He was an adopted child and he never forgot his roots or the wonder of parental love.

As an adopted child himself, Dave served as a credible spokesman for both Republican and Democrat White House

administrations on numerous adoption initiatives between 1990 and 2000. Using proceeds from two books and many speaking engagements, Dave founded the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in 1992 to work with families wishing to adopt children. Dave also worked with national adoption agencies to raise awareness about children who are waiting for adoption. Dave went on to create the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law to facilitate the adoption process through education and research.

Dave was also a driving force in persuading corporate America to reshape their policies to help cover the adoption expenses of employees. Thanks to his efforts, three out of four of the Fortune 1000 companies now offer adoption benefits to employees.

Yesterday was the anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in the Roe v. Wade case. As everyone knows, I support the rights of America's unborn. I recognize, however, that in today's society, unwanted pregnancies will continue to occur. Rather than taking an innocent life, I urge Americans to embrace adoption as an alternative to abortion.

Dave never forgot his good fortune and he willingly gave his time and financial resources to make us, as Americans, aware of the less fortunate. All for a kid. We who know him are better for it. Thousands of kids find themselves in better circumstances because of him and the passion that lived deep in his heart. What a legacy.

Along with the sponsors of this resolution, I simply want to thank Dave for making the world a better place for thousands of adopted children and also to send my sympathy to his family.

PROJECT ALPHA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, during consideration of the Defense appropriations bill on Friday, December 7, my distinguished colleagues, the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator INOUYE, and Senator HARKIN, a member of that subcommittee as well as the chairman of the Agriculture committee, engaged in a colloquy regarding the George Washington University's, proposed Project Alpha. I support this unique effort to deal with potential terrorist threats to the U.S. food supply. I have been working with GWU since May on this project. In July, Iowa State University joined the consortium at my request. I want to point out that support for this very worthwhile program and requests for its expeditious implementation come from both sides of the aisle. I am glad that Iowa State University can contribute its expertise in this area as a major partner in this effort and that the National Animal Disease Center will also be a key player.

An important component of the Project Alpha formula is its "National Decision Assessment Immersion Center," to be located in existing facilities

at the Virginia Campus of the George Washington University and to serve as a model for replication by those wishing to pursue individual variations of this new approach to complexity management in national security.

As was pointed out in the December 7 colloquy, Project Alpha is a proactive approach to terrorist threats to U.S. national security, a concept initiated and developed long before the tragic events of 9-11. It utilizes advanced technology in complexity-analysis techniques designed to help us both predict and prevent or ameliorate critical situations before they can become real-world disasters. Project Alpha combines sophisticated information-gathering and data-mining methodologies with high-performance data analysis, professional-level subject and issue expertise, decision support systems of proven efficacy, and state-of-the-art technology for communication and information dissemination.

Project Alpha offers the opportunity for exploration of the broadest range of threat possibilities, available options and their effects and ultimate consequences, especially those that would normally remain unforeseen and unpredicted. The program will allow rapid exploration of a massive range of relationships and interactions that are beyond the ability of our linear-reductions minds alone to follow or foresee. Project Alpha provides a mechanism for complexity consequence-projection of far greater scope, magnitude and immediacy than has ever before been available. The crucial element that makes this possible is the rapidly expanding supercomputing technology that has not yet been harnessed for this purpose. Through its use, Project Alpha can facilitate direct encounters with the unexpected and the unintended in order that potential terrorist events may be anticipated and rendered preventable, manageable and unsurprising. The purpose of Project Alpha is to help us learn more what we don't know in ways that we might never imagine, so that real-life catastrophes can be avoided. Protecting the U.S. food supply is high on the list of national security priorities, and the application of Project Alpha to this critical need can be of significant public benefit in dealing with the threat of agroterrorism now and in the future.

THE NEED FOR GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, at end of the First Session of this Congress, as I have before, I urged my colleagues to debate and pass sensible gun safety legislation. Since that statement, we have seen three separate incidences of gun violence in our Nation's schools. In New York City, a teenager walked into a high school and seriously wounded two other students. In Grundy, VA, a man walked into a law school and shot and killed three people. In Raymond, MS, a 17-year-old student who had just been suspended, returned to school and