

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1931 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1930

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1931 to amendment No. 1930.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1932

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to refer the House message on H.R. 1892 to the Committee on Appropriations to report back forthwith with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to refer the House message to accompany H.R. 1892 to the Committee on Appropriations to report back forthwith with instructions, being amendment numbered 1932.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1933

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1933 to the instructions of the motion to refer H.R. 1892.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "2" and insert "3"

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1934 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1933

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1934 to amendment No. 1933.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days"

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleagues in expressing my serious concern with the 5-year oil and gas leasing plan released by the Interior Department that proposes opening up vast portions of U.S. waters for possible oil exploration and development, including along the Atlantic seaboard and the coast of Maine.

I am opposed to any effort to open waters off the coast of Maine or any proximate area to offshore drilling, which could negatively affect the health of Maine's fisheries and other coastal resources, threatening to harm not only the environment but the State's economy as well. The Maine lobster industry, for example, has an estimated \$1.7 billion impact to the State's economy annually, not to mention the many other fishing, aquaculture, and coastal tourism industries that help to drive the State's economy. These critical industries are dependent on Maine's pristine waters, and even a minor spill could damage irreparably the ecosystem in the gulf of Maine and create serious economic disruption.

I look forward to working with the administration to ensure that the Interior Department's plan is revised to pose no unnecessary threats to the economy and way of life in coastal Maine.

DARPA'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, on the 60th anniversary of its inception. After the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, President Eisenhower determined that the United States would never again be caught off guard by technological surprise. DARPA was established to anticipate new technological capabilities and pursue strategic technological surprise for our military forces.

DARPA works collaboratively with academic institutions, corporate and government R&D labs, and small business enterprise. While the primary

focus is to discover fundamental new concepts that lead to breakthrough technologies for national security, many of DARPA's advances also benefit greater society. Some well-known examples include precision-guided weapons systems with miniaturized GPS components also found on many consumer products; the internet, used initially to link DARPA with performer partners, now widely used in commerce and every aspect of our lives; advanced antenna systems enabling more efficient warfighter communications and satellite signal reception for consumers; new breakthroughs in robotic technology for national security applications and the development of advanced prosthetic arms for wounded warriors and civilians alike. The list goes on.

By not accepting the parameters of what is widely accepted as the known possible, DARPA has proven that amazing achievements can be had by stretching to reach for what was once deemed impossible. In the realm of national defense, DARPA has pursued new systems, including unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles, hypersonic flight research, and new frontiers in biomedical research. From the giant engines of the Saturn V rocket that took Americans to the Moon to the smallest microelectronics that populate our smartphones, DARPA has been ahead of the cutting edge of technological innovation.

By focusing its efforts at the boundaries of fundamental research in physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, materials science, electronics, and engineering, DARPA has helped create new communities of scientists and engineers, both inside and beyond the traditional defense community. Along the way, new businesses and sometimes entire industries have sprung from DARPA-funded research, reflecting the Agency's commitment to pursue its ideas all the way from initial concept to demonstration of practical feasibility through prototype development.

DARPA programs are led by program managers who come from universities, industry, national laboratories, and other parts of government for limited postings that typically last 3 to 5 years—a time limit that helps drive the Agency's signature sense of urgency. Recognizing that some revolutionary goals inevitably prove unachievable, DARPA carefully manages risk by establishing appropriate milestone procedures and redirecting or discontinuing programs when further advancement stalls.

I congratulate DARPA for its many achievements over the past 60 years. The true assets that enable this kind of achievement are the men and women who work to make the visions of tomorrow become today's reality.

As DARPA moves into the future, I encourage my colleagues to join with me in recognizing this milestone and

supporting DARPA so that it can continue to keep our warfighters and citizens at the leading edge of technology and out of harm's way.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM J. VAN NESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to pay tribute to William J. Van Ness, an individual who was instrumental in the maturation and development of Alaska as a State and who passed away last November.

Bill's contributions to Alaska began in 1966 when he joined the staff of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the predecessor to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, under the chairmanship of Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson.

As special counsel and later chief counsel for the committee, Bill was one of the architects of the settlement of the aboriginal land claims of Alaska Natives, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, as well as the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Act of 1973. The enactment of these foundational laws has enabled Alaska to achieve many of the promises of our statehood.

As an Alaskan, a Senator representing Alaska, and the current chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, I was saddened to learn of Bill's passing, but am proud to help recognize his contributions to our state.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an essay made possible by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, which Bill served as president of from 1988 until 2008. The essay, which appeared on HistoryLink.org, highlights many of Bill's accomplishments.

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

HISTORYLINK: VAN NESS, WILLIAM J. "BILL" JR. (1938-2017)

Seattle attorney William J. "Bill" Van Ness Jr. worked under U.S. Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson (1912-1983) from 1966 to 1977 on the U.S. Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. He served first as special counsel and then, beginning in 1970, as chief counsel. During his tenure he drafted several pieces of key environmental legislation that became law, including the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

EARLY YEARS

Bill Van Ness Jr. was born on January 20, 1938, in Wolf Point, Montana, the son of William J. Van Ness and Mary Armyda Thomas. About 1942 the family moved to Port Orchard (Kitsap County), where his father took a job at the Bremerton Naval Yard. They stayed for three years in Port Orchard, then moved to Chimacum, Washington, (Jefferson County), a small, unincorporated community located about eight miles south of Port Townsend. Van Ness attended his early years of grade school in Port Townsend, and graduated from Chimacum High School in 1956.

He worked full time for a couple of years to pay for college, and graduated from Belingham's Western Washington State College

(now [2011] Western Washington University) in 1962 with a double major in English and Philosophy. After graduation Van Ness worked for a year, then went to law school at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he served as articles editor on the UW Law Review in his final year. In 1966 he graduated near the top of his class, and attracted the notice of some of his law professors, who ended up steering his career in a different direction than he was planning.

A DIFFERENT DIRECTION

Van Ness had a Sterling fellowship to go to Yale Law School, and his goal was to get a J.S.D. in Law and become a law professor. But he first needed to get a job to pay his college bills. He was thinking of staying in Seattle, but soon got a phone call that changed it all. Evidently one or more of his law professors had spotted the young graduate's potential and passed this information on to U.S. Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson. Jackson had become chairman of the Senate's Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (now the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) in 1963, and now invited Van Ness to interview for a position as special counsel on the committee.

Van Ness wasn't a particular fan of politics and wasn't particularly interested in moving to Washington, D.C., either, but he needed a job, so he took the interview. He liked what he saw in Jackson, and described his first impressions in a June 2011 interview: "He was a hell of a nice man, with an open mind, and full of common sense" (Phil Dougherty interview). Jackson was likewise impressed, and offered Van Ness the job. He accepted and moved with his family to the other Washington in August 1966.

He found the issues and opportunities presented in his new position invigorating and challenging.

ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS

One of Van Ness's first assignments involved structuring a settlement of the long-standing Alaska Native land claims. He began his research in the autumn of 1966 and soon found that there was virtually no information on who the Alaska Natives were, what their claims were, or even how many Alaska Natives there were. Realizing that far more in-depth research was necessary, he got authority to commission the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning to do a study. This committee, which had been formed to deal with reconstruction in southern Alaska after the great Alaska earthquake of 1964, prepared a comprehensive 565-page report in 1968 titled "Alaska Natives and the Land," which addressed virtually all factual questions which could be asked about the Alaska Native issue.

That same year oil was discovered at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, which made settling Alaska Native land claims more urgent. Thus the timing of the committee's report, completed late in 1968, couldn't have been better. It became the basis for hearings and eventually shaped legislation (which Van Ness drafted and Jackson introduced into the Senate) that became known as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Congress passed the act and it was signed by President Richard Nixon (1913-1994) in December 1971.

ANCSA was a wide-ranging act that paid \$962 million to Alaska Natives in exchange for their claims to many of their native lands. The act also transferred approximately 45 million acres of federal land to 12 regional and some 200 village corporations in the state (a 13th regional corporation was later set up in Seattle to handle claims of Alaska Natives no longer living in Alaska). These corporations were formed under the act to manage the lands and to create for-

profit business ventures. Since 1971 the Alaska Native corporations have become an important part of Alaska's economy and provide thousands of jobs to Alaskans as well as millions of dollars for scholarships and cultural programs. In 2009 total revenues for the dozen regional corporations in Alaska were more than \$7.2 billion.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

In 1967 Van Ness took on another project which eventually became the National Environmental Policy Act, more commonly known by its acronym NEPA. Environmental issues were coming to the forefront in 1960s America, but they were dealt with by multiple agencies with different priorities and approaches that often arrived at conflicting positions. Van Ness realized that there needed to be a process to identify all of the positions and then pinpoint the common goals to provide a basis for a better plan of action and better federal policy and decision-making.

Jackson, along with Representative John Dingell (b. 1926) of Michigan and others, had introduced legislation in Congress in 1966 to establish an environmental policy council. Van Ness took it a step further. In 1967 he prepared a memo to Jackson that argued the need for a comprehensive national environmental policy, pointing out that there might be one in the future in any event. He drafted legislation that eventually became Senate Bill (S.) 1075, the template for NEPA, and added that his draft was vetted by fellow committee member Daniel Dreyfus: "He had experience that I didn't have, and kept me grounded in reality. And he was a great critic" (Dougherty interview). In 1968 Van Ness helped draft an additional report that outlined the need for a uniform approach to national environmental policy. With this background in place, Jackson introduced S. 1075 in the Senate in February 1969.

The concept of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), now a key component of NEPA, was introduced in April 1969 during Senate hearings on the bill. The purpose of the EIS is to require federal agencies to provide analytic review of proposed major federal actions that would have a significant impact on the surrounding environment. The EIS must identify and address the environmental impact (particularly adverse environmental effects) of the proposed action and examine alternatives to it. Van Ness, assisted by Dreyfus, drafted the EIS requirement, which ultimately became Section 102 of NEPA. "Nobody seemed to pay much attention to it" [at the time], remarked Van Ness. "I wanted the EIS to be short enough to be easily read and understood by cabinet officers and other federal decision makers" (Dougherty interview).

The Senate passed S. 1075 in July and referred the bill to the House, which had conducted hearings earlier in the year on a similar bill introduced by Dingell. The House passed Dingell's bill (H.R. 12549) in September, after which the two bills went to a joint Senate-House committee to hammer out their differences. This was accomplished in December 1969, and the House and Senate both passed the final version of the act the week before Christmas. President Richard Nixon signed NEPA into law on January 1, 1970.

Today NEPA is regarded as a milestone in environmental legislation. It provides transparency and discipline for decision-making in a process that is open to the public. NEPA legislation has since been adopted by many states (including Washington state) as well as by other nations.

THE ALASKA PIPELINE AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

Van Ness took the lead in drafting two other significant acts that were enacted in