

Strike title IV of the bill and insert the following:

TITLE IV—JUDICIAL REVIEW

SEC. 401. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any statement or report prepared under titles I or III of this Act, and any compliance or noncompliance with the provisions of titles I or III of this Act, and any determination concerning the applicability of the provisions of titles I or III of this Act shall not be subject to judicial review.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No provision of titles I or III of this Act or amendment made by titles I or III of this Act shall be construed to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any person in any administrative or judicial action. No ruling or determination made under the provisions of titles I or III of this Act or amendments made by titles I or III of this Act shall be considered by any court in determining the intent of Congress.

ROTH AMENDMENT NO. 222

Mr. ROTH proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1, supra; as follows:

On page 33, strike all on lines 10 through 12, and insert the following:

This title shall take effect on January 1, 1996, and shall apply to—

(1) bills and joint resolutions reported, and to amendments and motions offered, on and after such date, and

(2) conference reports on such legislation.

NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet in SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, on Tuesday, January 31, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony on S. 91 and S. 218.

For further information concerning this business meeting, please contact Mark C. Mackie of the Rules Committee staff on 224-3448.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, January 24, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. in open session to discuss the requirements for ballistic missile defenses.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be permitted to meet Tuesday, January 24, 1995, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing on the methods of estimating the impact of Federal fiscal policies on Federal revenues.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be author-

ized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 24, 1995, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on the North Korea Nuclear Agreement.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on the National Endowment for the Arts, during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 24, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION, FEDERALISM, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during a session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 24, 1995, at 9 a.m., in Senate Dirksen Room 226, on The Line-Item Veto: A Constitutional Approach.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATCHEZ BLUFFS
STABILIZATION—S. 255

• Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 255 be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. S. 255, a bill to authorize the Corps of Engineers to stabilize the bluffs at Natchez, MS, was introduced on January 20, 1995, along with accompanying statements from myself and Senator COCHRAN. Due to an inadvertent omission at the time, the bill was not printed in the RECORD.

S. 255

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

SECTION 1. STABILIZATION OF NATCHEZ BLUFFS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the recommendations of the reports prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers entitled "The Natchez Bluff Study", "The Natchez Bluff Study: Supplement I", and "The Natchez Bluff Study: Supplement II", dated September 1985, June 1990, and December 1993, respectively, the Secretary of the Army shall carry out such activities as are necessary to stabilize the portions of the bluffs along the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Natchez, Mississippi, designated in figure 4 of the December 1993 report as—

- (1) Clifton Avenue, area 3;
- (2) the bluff above Natchez Under-the-Hill, area 7;
- (3) the bluff above Silver Street, area 6; and
- (4) Madison Street to State Street, area 4.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Army such sums as are necessary to carry out this section. •

VETERANS' HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION ACT

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today to amend chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code, to revise certain provisions relating to the appointment of clinical and counseling psychologists in the Veterans Health Administration [VHA].

The VHA has a long history of maintaining a staff of the very best health care professionals to provide care to those men and women who have served their country in the Armed Forces. It is certainly fitting that this should be done.

Recently a quite distressing situation regarding the care of our veterans has come to my attention. In particular, the recruitment and retention of psychologists in the VHA of the Department of Veterans Affairs has become a significant problem.

The Congress has recognized the important contribution of the behavioral sciences in the treatment of several conditions from which a significant portion of our veterans suffer. For example, programs related to homelessness, substance abuse, and post traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] have received funding from the Congress in recent years.

Certainly, psychologists, as behavioral science experts, are essential to the successful implementation of these programs. However, the high vacancy and turnover rates for psychologists in the VHA—over 11 and 18 percent, respectively, as reported in one recent survey—might seriously jeopardize these programs and will negatively impact overall patient care in the VHA.

Recruitment of psychologists by the VHA is hindered by a number of factors including a pay scale not commensurate with private sector rates of pay as well as by the low number of clinical and counseling psychologists appearing on the register of the Office of Personnel Management [OPM]. Most new hires have no postdoctoral experience and are hired immediately after a VA internship. Recruitment, when successful, takes up to 6 months or more.

Retention of psychologists in the VA system poses an even more significant problem. I have been informed that almost 40 percent of VHA psychologists had 5 years or less of postdoctoral experience. Without doubt, our veterans would benefit from a higher percentage of senior staff who are more experienced in working with veterans and their particular concerns. My bill provides incentives for psychologists to continue their work with the VHA and seek additional education and training.

Several factors are associated with the difficulties in retention of VHA psychologists including low salaries and lack of career advancement opportunities. It seems that psychologists are apt to leave the VA system after 5 years because they have almost reached peak levels for salary and professional development in the VHA. Furthermore, under the present system