

increased by 16 percent and the amount of freight increased 14 percent. The shipping activities of the seaport have also been growing—outpacing the growth of all other seaports on the west coast. There is no reason to believe that this growth will not continue to occur.

These booming holdings of the Port of Portland should be more than able to help the port during any further economic decline, and thus there is no need for Federal assistance to this local—not Federal—entity.

I also want to note my dismay over a provision added to the bill that would mandate that the General Services Administration and the Department of Agriculture transfer Federal land to the city of Hoboken, NJ.

Mr. President, I raise this not to debate whether the land in Hoboken should or should not be transferred to the city. I am told by GSA that they would not oppose such a transfer and that the Federal Government has no further use for the land.

I raise this issue because there is an administrative procedure in place that governs the disposal of excess or unneeded Federal property. That administrative procedure is designed to ensure that all parties are treated fairly, and that the Government's—and the taxpayer's—best interests are paramount. By adding a provision to this bill to mandate the immediate disposal of this Federal land, the proper process is being circumvented. Elected officials, and the public, have no way to know if we are doing the right thing when the proper, open process is circumvented. We can only speculate that this transfer is truly in the public's interest, not to mention that bypassing appropriate procedures invites others to do the same which is neither fair nor in the public interest.

Both of the provisions I have mentioned should not be in this bill and I would hope they would both be dropped in conference.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATFIELD. I believe the Senator from Arizona, [Mr. McCAIN], desires to have a brief colloquy before we go to final passage.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I will say to the Senator from Oregon, the distinguished chairman, in light of the failure of the tabling motion of this language concerning the FAA procurement and personnel reform, I ask unanimous consent that there be language inserted that that would not take effect until the 1st of April, as we have discussed before, in order that the authorizing committees might have an opportunity to act in an overall broad reformation of the FAA and the funding.

I seek that unanimous-consent request from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, the Senator is correct. This was a discussion yesterday and last evening as well. We are very happy to join in that unanimous-consent request.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I agree. I think it is a wise decision and I appreciate the fact that the Senator from Arizona recommended it. It will give the committees an opportunity to do what we wanted them to do in the first place, very frankly, and the reason for the language in the bill. So I think it is a good idea.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that language be inserted at the appropriate point in a technical fashion, a technical amendment, in order to make the effective date of procurement reform, personnel reform of the FAA effective as of April 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Will the Senator send his amendment to the desk?

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

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

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1087

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, while we are waiting, I ask unanimous consent that upon disposition of H.R. 2002, the Department of Transportation and related agencies appropriations bill, the Senate turn to consideration of S. 1087, the DOD appropriations bill. This has been cleared on the other side.

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

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, let me just say for the information of all Senators, the Senate will begin consideration of the DOD appropriations bill after disposition of the pending matter. In the meantime, various Senators are still negotiating ABM language that has blocked the Senate from concluding action on the DOD authorization bill.

As soon as that language has been agreed to on both sides, if agreed to, it will be my intention to call for the regular order with respect to the DOD authorization bill and complete action on that very necessary authorization bill. Once that has been completed, the Senate will resume the DOD appropriations bill and remain on that item until disposed of. If they do not get an agreement, we will finish the DOD appropriations bill.

There are also a number of nominations we have had a number of inquiries about. Depending on what else happens, we may be able to accommodate some of those requests. I know the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary Rubin, is very, very concerned about Larry Summers, a Treasury Department nominee. As I understand, there are at least 25 holds on that nomination. I am not certain we will be able to accommodate Secretary Rubin. We

will be checking on this side of the aisle to see if there is any opportunity.

Mr. STEVENS. Will the leader yield? I wonder if we can get an agreement that there will be no amendment in order on the Defense appropriations bill dealing with the controversy that surrounds the authorization bill, the ABM Treaty. It makes no sense to go on the appropriations bill if we are going to bring to the floor the people who are negotiating to finally resolve the problem on the authorization bill. I hope there will be an agreement our bill will not have any amendment pertaining to the ABM controversy.

Mr. DOLE. I think we will wait until we get to the bill first.

Mr. STEVENS. I just want everyone to know that while they are here. I am reluctant to take up the bill and get involved in the ABM controversy. As I said, it will bring the people out of the office who are hoping to get that resolved. I will wait, however.

Mr. DOLE. We will wait until we get to the bill.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, we did not object to going to Defense appropriations since it is understood that we can come back to the Defense authorization bill, which we really ought to pass before we pass Defense appropriations.

As I understand it, we will come back to it just as soon as resolution is reached on the question of ABM. Senator NUNN of Georgia, the ranking member, I believe is working hard on that, and others are working from our side. We hope to be able to reach an agreement on that.

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2348

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. McCAIN] proposes an amendment numbered 2348.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, 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:

On page 72, after line 15, insert: "(c) This section shall take effect on April 1, 1996."

On page 73, after line 24, insert: "(c) This section shall take effect on April 1, 1996."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the amendment? Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

So the amendment (No. 2348) was agreed to.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.