

LAUTENBERG, for their efforts in negotiating this comprehensive bill and for recognizing the particular importance of some provisions to Pennsylvania, including highway and transit funding levels.

Given the difficult budget constraints faced by the subcommittee, I am particularly pleased that the bill provides \$750 million for Amtrak, including improvements to the Northeast corridor. Amtrak service is essential to Pennsylvanians and I have long stressed the importance of ensuring the viability of a truly national passenger rail service.

The conference report has also adopted a \$1.45 billion funding level for airport construction grants-in-aid, \$200 million more than the Senate version of the bill. The statement of managers directs the Federal Aviation Administration to fairly consider a letter of intent application from Philadelphia International Airport, which has sought funding for construction of a new runway.

Given the significance to Pittsburgh of the airport busway project, I am very pleased that the conference report provides \$31.6 million for fiscal year 1996 to continue construction. I urged our subcommittee to provide this level of funding because this project will ease traffic congestion between downtown and the Pittsburgh International Airport and will mitigate the impact of the Fort Pitt Bridge closing, which would otherwise create a monumental headache for Pittsburgh residents. With spending cutbacks in so many areas, we are fortunate to get this substantial amount of funds for the busway, which means so much to people who live in the Pittsburgh area.

I remain disappointed that the conference report only provides \$400 million for mass transit operating assistance, which will lead to cuts of as much as 40 percent for some transit systems. In fiscal year 1995, transit systems received \$710 million in Federal operating assistance, which they used to keep fares down and maintain service. On August 9, my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM, and I offered an amendment to restore \$40 million to the \$400 million provided in this bill for mass transit operating assistance. Unfortunately, our amendment was defeated by 68 to 30.

As always, I remain committed to the millions of Pennsylvanians and other Americans who rely on public transit to commute to work, shop, and carry on their lives. Mass transit operating assistance keeps the Nation moving by keeping fares lower and maintaining existing routes. Pennsylvania's citizens and communities depend on good public transportation for mobility, access to jobs, environmental control, and economic stability. It lets the elderly visit their health care providers, shops, or friends. In rural areas, buses are essential to reduce isolation and ensure economic development. And, children use public transportation

to go to school in some areas. Without affordable mass transit people in America's inner cities can't get to work. Congress has been considering welfare reform and requirements that people have jobs. If they can't afford to get to work, or bus routes are cut, we are just making it that much harder for lower income Americans to get off welfare.

Although I am troubled by the extent of the mass transit assistance cuts, on balance the Transportation appropriations bill is a good bill, containing much else of importance to Pennsylvania and the Nation, and that is why I supported the conference report as a conferee. However, I intend to keep up my efforts next year to preserve funding for mass transit, and to work with our chairman to ensure that Congress does not go too far, too fast in reducing assistance to transit agencies throughout the Nation.

In closing, Mr. President, I would note that the conference report contains a provision on telecommuting that I authored, section 345, which requires the Secretary of Transportation to study successful private and public sector telecommuting programs and to disseminate to the general public and to Congress information about the benefits and costs of telecommuting. As my colleagues are aware, telecommuting is the practice of allowing people to work either at home or in nearby centers located closer to their home during their normal working hours, substituting telecommunications services, either partially or fully, for transportation to the traditional workplace. I believe that it is in the national interest to encourage the use of telecommuting because it can enable flexible family-friendly employment, reduce air pollution, and conserve energy. Further, as a Senator from Pennsylvania, with major urban areas such as Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, I recognize there is a real need to improve the quality of life in and around America's cities.

According to a July, 1994 Office of Technology Assessment report, between 2 to 8 million American workers already telecommute at least part time. A 1994 survey by the Conference Board found, however, that in 155 businesses nationwide, only 1 percent of employees telecommute, although 72 percent of the businesses had such an option. According to the Office of Technology Assessment, the most significant barriers to telecommuting are business and worker acceptance and costs. My provision responds to the need to broaden public awareness of the benefits and costs of telecommuting, and to identify and highlight successful programs that can be duplicated.

Mr. President, the fiscal year 1996 Transportation appropriations conference report is worthwhile legislation and deserves to be signed into law by the President.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, let me indicate to my colleagues that we are not going to proceed on the instructions to conferees at this point on the so-called reconciliation package. We may do it the next day. We may do it next week, but not today. It seems to me that we need to first talk to the President of the United States. Hopefully, we will get to do that this afternoon.

One of the things the President complained about is that we are not passing appropriations bills. I would like to now turn to the conference report to accompany the foreign operations appropriations bill, if there is no objection.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Senator DOLE, the majority leader, and I had the opportunity to talk yesterday. It was my understanding that we were going to go to the conference. I understand his reasons for delaying the consideration of the conference matters until a later time, subject to discussion with the President.

I am disappointed that we have not had the opportunity to talk about this until this very moment. But I would hope that if we would go to the foreign operations and work through it in good faith, there is no reason why—I know there are some difficult issues out there that we are going to have to address, but I know the majority leader is cognizant of our schedule this evening. I hope we can accommodate that schedule. I will work with him to see that we can work through this bill and deal with the issues that we must confront prior to the time we resolve this matter.

This is one of the bills that the President has indicated that he ought to be able to support and sign. But, obviously, there are some troubling issues that we have to work through, and we will do that.

With that understanding, I have no objection to moving to the foreign operations legislation.

Mr. DOLE. I appreciate the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE's cooperation. I was not aware of the other until about 11:50. I will talk to the Senator privately about it. Senator DOMENICI came to my office, and he feels that, at least as far as today is concerned, there is something else that is more important than discussing a motion to instruct conferees. So we do now have consent to go to the foreign operations appropriations bill. There is one amendment in disagreement.

We will accommodate the schedule this evening, whatever happens.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the majority leader.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I submit a report of the committee of conference

on H.R. 1868 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1868) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by all of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 26, 1995.)

Mr. BURNS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business for 15 minutes.

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

The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BURNS. I thank the Chair.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would like to talk about yet another example of Federal bureaucratic actions made without regard for the will of the people, the will of the Congress, the good of the country and basic common sense. We need to restore a degree of sensibility and sanity to the manner in which this country gradually converts to the metric system.

The 1988 trade bill contained language which established the metric system as the preferred system of measurement for the United States. Why was the language on the trade bill? The rationale was that it would improve the ability of American companies to export goods to metric-based countries if American firms could be moved to produce those goods in metric versions.

The principal tool for urging American companies to switch to the metric system has been to use government procurement policy. The trade bill included language "to require that each Federal agency, by a date certain and to the extent economically feasible by the end of the fiscal year 1992, use the metric system of measurement in its procurement, grants, and other business-related activities * * *."

The problem I am addressing today arises from the unfortunate fact that the Federal agencies responsible for implementing the metric policy either forgot to read or are completely ignoring the remainder of the above sentence: "* * * except to the extent that such use is impractical or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to U.S. firms, such as when foreign competitors are producing competing products in nonmetric units;"

Congress never intended for the switch to metrication to be forced at

any cost or without regard to its impact on people and industry. Issues such as impracticality and the loss of markets to U.S. firms were paramount in the minds of everyone aware of this language. Without these important considerations, the metric language would not have remained in the bill to become law.

Yet, we see today that Federal construction procurement policy for the various departments and agencies is completely ignoring this language and pushing ahead with metrication policies without any formalized plans for avoiding the pitfalls. In fact, they are going far beyond the level of metrication called for in the trade bills, and that is causing staggering problems for some industries. These problems are compounded by Federal procurement policies that hinder industry rather than promote trade.

Simply converting an industry to metric units of measurement is usually not a major problem. Converting the numbers from inches and pounds to millimeters and kilograms is a difference on paper which can be made by editing the marketing literature and computer design programs. The physical size of the product remains the same. This is known as a soft-metric conversion, and does little to interfere with efficient and well-established production practices or costs. The Government is allowing a soft conversion for most construction industries.

The problem is that some industries have been targeted to do more than use metric units of measurement; they are being required to change the size of their products as well. This is called a hard-metric conversion, and it can throw existing production practices into an uproar. At this point, industry is forced to change production practices. Even a minute change in size required by the Federal Government can force a business to completely retool and deal with all the problems with managing a second, hard-metric inventory of goods. This is Federal bureaucracy run amok.

And who picks up the tab for this intrusive Government policy? The taxpayer, that is who. Converting to hard-metric will add to the cost of Federal contracting jobs. And the industry will be forced to pass along the conversion costs to the Government and on down to the taxpayer. Under hard-metrication, the taxpayers are forced to pay a hefty "metric premium," whether they want to or not.

Mr. President, it is time to pass legislation that will take away the ability of the Government in Washington DC, to send whole established industries into a tailspin, to put small businesses out of the running for Federal contracts, and force the taxpayers to foot the bill for a warped view of metric purity.

There does not need to be a wholesale attack on the metric system. It is true that many industries can convert to the metric system with little or no trouble or expense, and that is fine.

However, there are those cases where there are substantial, compelling industry-specific economic, trade or production factors that call for a soft-metric conversion. Industries that would bear unreasonable burdens in switching to hard-metric should instead be allowed to convert to soft-metric.

The Federal Government should refrain from developing or using designs, or requiring bids for hard-metric products when a soft-metric conversion is technologically feasible and certain other criteria relating to specific small business, trade and economic criteria are present:

The product is not available from at least 50 percent of the production sites, or hard-metric product does not constitute at least 50 percent of the total domestic production, and;

A hard-metric conversion would require small manufacturers of a product to spend more than \$25,000 to purchase new equipment, and;

The economics and customs of the industry are such that any offsetting trade benefits would be negligible, or that hard-metric conversion would either substantially reduce competition for federally assisted contracts or would increase the per-unit cost to the taxpayers, or that hard-metric conversion would place small domestic producers at a competitive disadvantage to foreign competitors.

Mr. President, metrication may well have merit on paper and may have some positive impact on American business generally. Gut it is difficult to say how much, if any, impact it is having on business. Business is usually good at making decisions based on sound-business sense. Which is more than I can say for the Federal Government in this case.

We need to move legislation quickly, since I am aware that several Federal agencies are actively pursuing the development of hard-metric designs to be used on federally assisted construction. Federal agencies should strongly consider putting their design and bidding efforts on hold if they involve hard-metric product.

I ask unanimous consent to have a letter printed in the RECORD.

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

NATIONAL
CONCRETE MASONRY ASSOCIATION,
Herrndon, VA, October 26, 1995.

Hon. CONRAD BURNS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BURNS: I am very pleased to learn that you have taken note of the plight the concrete masonry (C/M) industry is facing with regard to the hard-metric conversion the federal government is forcing on our producers. I would like to take this opportunity to explain why hard-metric conversion is terrible public policy, why it is so bad for the C/M industry, for the federal procurement agents and for the taxpayers, and why a soft-metric alternative is absolutely imperative.

Concrete masonry is the industry term for concrete brick and block. It is a very common, basic building component and is essentially a commodity. It is made by pouring concrete into molds of various shapes and sizes, and then drying the product for the requisite amount of time. Over the course of decades, the industry has developed uniform shapes and sizes that are common throughout the construction industry. All C/M manufacturers have purchased and maintain complete sets of molds to make the product, and they maintain inventories of various shapes and sizes.

Virtually all the producers in the country make product based on the English foot-pounds system. That is because virtually the entire American market uses English-based block. The standard concrete block everyone knows is 8" x 8" x 16".

Even though the long history of the C/M industry is based on the English system, it would be fairly simple to convert to the metric system of measurement—if that were all that Federal procurement officers required. The C/M industry has made it very clear that it can convert to the metric system immediately if that will satisfy the government's requirement for metrication. All our producers have to do is express the standard concrete block in metric dimensions, 194mm x 194mm x 397mm. That only requires a change in our sales materials and some basic changes in our computer design programs. Changing the unit of measurement without changing the physical size is referred to as a soft-metric conversion.

However, the C/M industry is being told by federal contracting agents that converting to metric is not enough, that they want the industry to actually change the size of its product to achieve metrication and round numbers. Changing the physical size of the product in addition to changing the unit of measurement is called a hard-metric conversion.

There is nothing whatsoever in any legislation requiring a hard-metric conversion of any product. The words do not appear in any bill or any statement of policy by Congress. There is no legislative history showing any desire by any elected official to force any industry to change the size of its products or to radically change their production practices. If anything, the legislative history of the 1988 Trade Bill and the metric language attached thereto clearly indicates that this kind of intrusion into industry activity was exactly what the Congress was trying to avoid.

According to publications issued by the Construction Metrication Council, a group of federal construction policy officials in various departments and agencies who are coordinating metrication in U.S. construction, some industries are being required to engage in hard-metric conversion even in cases where it will be extremely costly, inefficient, and impractical to do so. The large majority of products will be allowed to use a soft-metric conversion, which should be the policy for all products. But some unfortunate businesses like the C/M industry have been targeted for hard-metric conversion and are being thrown into turmoil as a result.

The hard-metric block that the Council has defined is 190mm x 190mm x 390mm. This is roughly one-eighth of an inch smaller than the soft-metric version that the industry could produce today at minimal or no additional cost. However, that one-eighth of an inch difference for hard-metric would require C/M manufacturers to purchase an entirely new set of hard-metric molds in order to produce hard-metric product.

Concrete block molds generally range in cost from \$10,000 to \$30,000 per mold, and it takes many types of shapes and sizes to com-

plete a typical large, complex federal construction project. Individual C/M producers have told me it could cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000 per producer to buy a complete compliment of hard-metric molds. NCMA has estimated that if the entire domestic C/M industry shifted to hard-metric production, it would cost between \$250 million and \$500 million.

That makes the government's eighth of an inch for hard-metric the most expensive eighth of an inch in American history.

Let's keep in mind that a hard-metric block is not stronger, not safer, not more durable, not more resistant to fire nor more energy efficient nor more anything useful. Perhaps that is the reason why there is no demand whatsoever in the American private sector for hard-metric concrete block. Nobody wants it because there is no reason to want it. The only difference is that it is more expensive, hard to find and difficult to produce.

Requiring a business like the C/M industry to convert to hard-metric shows an amazing lack of knowledge about or concern for the industry itself. Let's keep in mind that the rationale behind the metric language in the Trade Bill was to promote the trade stance of American companies. It so turns out that concrete masonry is only rarely traded in international commerce and is nearly never transported overseas. In addition, this is an industry whose product is so much like a commodity that the average profit margin per unit is 2 cents. The economics of the industry are such that it isn't feasible to ship block to Europe or Japan or anywhere beyond the border regions of Canada and Mexico. Most block is used within 50 miles of the point of production. Any trade benefit that might offset initial costs for other industries is utterly negligible for the block industry.

But the consequences of this policy get even worse. The vast majority of C/M producers in America are small, often family-held businesses. In NCMA, 62 percent of all of our member companies have one block-making machine. These companies will immediately be pushed out of the market for federal government contracts, the first victims of an economically negligent metrication policy. There is no means by which many smaller businesses can hope to recoup the huge capital outlay required to start up an entirely new line of products merely to satisfy the hard-metric preferences of federal bureaucrats. There is virtually no private sector demand for hard-metric product, so any income to offset the capitalization cost would have to come from the occasional federally-assisted project. Federally-assisted construction is less than 5 percent of the entire domestic construction market. Such projects are vitally important to the bottom line of a successful bidder, but they are too infrequent in most cases to justify the investment and, indeed, the risk, of buying a new line of production molds and hoping enough business comes along to eventually recover the initial investment.

Is this how the 1988 Trade Bill was supposed to improve the ability of American firms to engage in foreign trade? Hard-metric conversion would work a trade burden on the domestic C/M industry, not a trade benefit. It would seem that this was exactly the unintended consequence that Congress sought to avoid in the 1988 Trade Bill.

Aside from the tremendous burdens it would place on the C/M industry, there would be increased construction costs to produce what amounts to a specialty product. I mentioned previously that there would be no way for a small block manufacturer to recoup its costs. Actually, there would be a way—by passing those additional costs on to the consumer, which in this case is the taxpayer.

I understand that federal contracting agents are willing under the metrication policy to accept higher bids in order to obtain hard-metric product—a "metric premium" in the range of 1 to 5 percent. They have to because hard-metric product is often in very short supply or non-existent.

It gets worse. There are rumors that this metric premium may quietly but quickly get out of hand. During a June hearing before the House Science Subcommittee on Technology, chaired by the Honorable Connie Morella, Mrs. Morella told one of the witnesses that she had heard that a new advanced technology laboratory being constructed at NIST near Gaithersburg, Maryland is being built to hard metric specifications, and that GAO estimates the additional cost will be 20 or 25 percent. The witnesses did not deny that this was the case.

Just how serious is the issue of reduced competition for bids? NCMA recently sent a metrication questionnaire to the 798 C/M producers it knows to exist throughout the country. 398 responded, an astonishing response rate of 49 percent, which gives some idea of how important this issue is to the individual companies. Of those companies responding, I said it currently makes hard-metric block, 397 said they do not. Only two companies said they have hard-metric molds onsite to make the product. It is likely there are others who can make the product, but it is very clear that there is precious little availability of the product the government is asking for in the country today, and little capacity to make it.

Recently, I was contacted by a contracting agent for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. He had a big hard-metrication problem of his own. It seems he had made calls to 32 block manufacturers to determine availability of concrete masonry. All 32 said they could provide all the block the CDC would need, and at competitive prices. But when the CDC agent asked whether the companies could supply hard-metric block, immediately all but 6 of the companies dropped out. Of the remaining six, 3 said they could provide soft-metric block. The last 3 companies indicated they might do whatever it takes to win the bid, but the agent believed that none of those companies presently have hard metric capability.

Clearly, the taxpayers will pay more per unit, enjoy less competition and have far fewer sources of product than can be had using a soft-metric conversion. Indeed, federal procurement policy staff have told me their design staff are currently designing projects in hard-metric block even though they have no idea where they will obtain the hard-metric material. It is entirely possible that there will be no responsive bidders in hard-metric, requiring the government to redraw plans and bid in soft-metric, all at increased costs to the taxpayers.

NCMA has gone to great lengths to persuade the federal contracting authorities on the basis of these considerations to relent on the hard-metric concrete block requirements.

We have thoroughly briefed the Construction Metrication Council on the problems we would face. We have provided position papers and fact sheets. We have met in small groups with the federal employees charged with developing agency procurement policy. We have invited CMC staff to speak directly with C/M producers. We have told federal construction representatives that there is only a relative handful of C/M producers in America that can produce hard-metric material. We have pleaded with CMC officials to reconsider the caveat language in the 1988 Trade Bill clearly showing that metrication is not meant to cause substantial inefficiencies and loss of markets to U.S. firms, but

our entreaties have fallen upon deaf ears. The end result is that we have had cordial, business-like meetings but the drive for hard-metric concrete block continues unabated. The federal procurement policy officials keep telling block manufacturers to make hard-metric block or they won't be adequately responding to federal solicitations.

We have been told point-blank that if companies have to go by the wayside in order to convert to hard-metric, so be it, that is the price of progress.

It is clear to me that the only solution at this point is a legislative solution.

On behalf of united C/M producers throughout the country, I would urge that you and your colleagues pass legislation to restore the original intent of Congress and prevent the terrible, ironic consequences that the hard-metric conversion of concrete masonry would create.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

RANDALL G. PENCE,

Director of Government Relations.

Mr. BURNS. 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. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996 MIDDLE EAST FACILITATION ACT OF 1995—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have before the Senate this morning the conference report on the foreign operations bill. This measure passed the House yesterday at 351 to 71.

I might just say before what I hope will be just a brief debate, I am not currently aware of any other Senators on this side of the aisle who wish to speak. Senator LEAHY should be here momentarily and it is our hope that we could have fairly early on here a roll-call vote on the conference report itself.

There is an amendment in disagreement related to the abortion issue which may take a little more debate and then a vote a little bit later. But it is our hope, and if there are no objections or problems with that, that we might be able to get to a vote on the conference report rather soon.

Let me say, although we had very limited resources, I believe this bill legislates our national priorities—it provides both security and flexibility.

The conferees produced legislation below our allocation, \$1.5 billion below last year's levels and nearly \$2.7 billion below what President Clinton requested. So clearly we have made a reduction in foreign assistance.

In spite of these reductions, our security interests have been clearly served

by earmarking funds for our Camp David partners and extending the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act.

We also advance our national security priorities in the New Independent States by completing a shift in resources from Russia to Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, and the other States that used to be part of the Soviet Union.

We have also linked aid to Russia to termination of the nuclear deal with Iran. In the interest of maximizing the administration's leverage, I suggested the restriction take effect 3 months after the date of enactment of this bill giving the Vice President the opportunity to negotiate a solution to this problem in his January meetings with Chernomydin.

We have served U.S. interests while affording the administration a great deal of flexibility.

There are three ways we have offered flexibility.

First, we have provided transfer authority between accounts. For example, NIS resources can be used to fund the Warsaw Initiative and Partnership for Peace programs. Second, we have consolidated various development aid accounts into one account with limited conditions; and, third, there are very few earmarks.

I think the House would have preferred to provide a blank check giving the administration the option to make all funding choices, but after 3 years of unfulfilled commitments, the conferees agreed upon the necessity to set funding levels for specific countries, which was, of course, the imprint of the Senate bill.

For my colleagues who are concerned about earmarking resources for specific projects, let me assure them we have avoided such action. We have funded countries and categories of activities such as programs to strengthen democracy, rule of law and independent media, but have not dedicated any resources for any organization or project within these broad accounts.

The conference report largely reflects the priorities identified by the Senate. The conferees agreed to the Senate's provisions on a range of issues from Pakistan to an amendment offered by Senator HELMS to ban AID's move to the Federal triangle.

One of the few items where the Senate position did not prevail concerns Mexico City and funding for abortion. We are reporting back an amendment in disagreement which I would like to take a moment to explain.

The House passed language which banned assistance to any organization which fails to certify that they are not performing abortions. In addition, the House banned assistance to the UNFPA unless the President certified programs in China had been terminated.

The Senate stripped out the language at the subcommittee level and substituted language requiring the same standards for determining eligibility for assistance be applied to both governments and to nongovernmental and multilateral organizations. The senate

also required no funds be used to lobby on the question of abortion.

Unfortunately the conferees were unable to reach any agreement on this matter.

Fundamentally, let me just say that the Senate appears to be narrowly prochoice, as these terms generally describe positions Senators have taken. The House appears to be prolife. So we were unable to come together in the conference report.

The House has sent over a substitute measure which restricts assistance to organizations which provide abortions but makes exceptions where the life of the mother, rape or incest are involved—a solution which tracks the so-called Hyde standards. The compromise also includes language which requires the President to certify that the UNFPA will terminate programs in China compared with the previous language requiring the President to certify that UNFPA already has terminated China programs. My understanding is this distinction was drawn because UNFPA plans to cease China programs at the end of this calendar year, thus it is a standard the administration could meet.

I hope my colleagues will support the conference report as it is entirely consistent with the votes and views of the Senate expressed September 21. It is my intention to also support the compromise language proposed by the House in the amendment in disagreement since I believe it is consistent with language which the Congress has been able to support in the past. But, clearly, Mr. President, it is a statement of the obvious to say that is an issue upon which the Senate and the House are deeply divided.

With regard to the abortion issue, the vote, I would just report to my colleagues—I think I said earlier the vote on the full conference report in the House yesterday was 351 in favor, 71 against. On the abortion amendment in disagreement, in the House the vote was 231 in favor of the House position, which I have just outlined; 187 against.

So, at some point during the day we will have a vote on the conference report and then a vote on the amendment in disagreement. It is my hope, as I indicated earlier, that we can have a vote on the conference report sometime very soon. I believe Senator LEAHY is on his way and I did want to give notice to everyone there could well be a rollcall vote on the conference report sometime very soon.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am grateful that the conferees have included my amendment to require the U.S. Agency for International Development to contract out mapping and surveying work to qualified U.S. companies when such work can be accomplished by the private sector. This provision was based on my concern that while AID requires mapping and surveying in countries that receive development assistance, this mapping and