

There is a Northeast dairy compact provision in there to allow New England States to implement a price enhancement compact. We wish we could have gone further. The House acted yesterday on dairy legislation. Certainly in conference, it is my hope that we can refine and clarify dairy policy inside the farm bill for the coming year. The dairy industry of our country has worked now for the last 6 months with the House and the Senate Agriculture Committees to arrive at a compromise that reduces the overall budget profile for dairy programs and creates greater flexibility in the program. We hope that can get accomplished. Certainly there is a conservation foundation in this program that creates a nonprofit foundation to promote conservation. I know this has been something Senator LEAHY has worked at for a good number of years.

There is legislation in here also to deal with wetlands and the Florida Everglades issue. There is a concern that I will express for the RECORD that deals with this section as it applies to the program and the restoration of these vital wetlands in Florida. There is a provision for eminent domain. I think it is very important that the RECORD show that this Senator and many others recognize that authority of the Government, but also recognize under a former Executive order on March 15, 1988, signed by President Reagan, that Federal departments and agencies must consider the takings implication and deal with willing seller-willing buyer. I certainly, through the balance of this legislation, activities, debate, and in the conference, will work with the Senators from Florida to assure that in all instances we have a willing seller-willing buyer relationship as the State of Florida and the Senators from that State work to maintain the Florida Everglades and any consideration there with private property acquisition for the purpose of enhancement of the Everglades. All of us want to see that valuable natural resource protected. But at the same time, it is very important that the right of the private property owner be maintained.

Mr. President, I chair the Private Property Rights Caucus here on the Hill. We just brought out of the Judiciary Committee the private property rights bill that I think is sweeping in its protection of private property rights. It sets the Government on notice. Certainly this legislation, if that act would become law, would fall subject to that new law. That would be important.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before discussing today's bad news about the Federal debt, how about "another go," as the British put it, with our pop quiz. Remember—one question, one answer.

The question: How many millions of dollars in a trillion? While you are thinking about it, bear in mind that it was the U.S. Congress that ran up the enormous Federal debt that is now about \$13 billion shy of \$5 trillion.

To be exact, as of the close of business Tuesday, January 30, the total Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$4,987,589,544,052.52. Another depressing figure means that on a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$18,931.32.

Mr. President, back to our quiz (how many million in a trillion?): There are a million million in a trillion, which means that the Federal Government will shortly owe five million million dollars.

Now who's not in favor of balancing the Federal budget?

TIME TO PRIVATIZE THE WILLIAM LANGER PLANT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, late Friday evening the Senate passed by voice vote S. 1544, a bill of mine to permit the conveyance of the William Langer Plant to the Job Development Authority of the city of Rolla, ND. The bill is crucial to the immediate economic future of the plant, which is why I sought its expedited approval. I am glad to say that my good friend and senior colleague from North Dakota, Senator CONRAD, cosponsored S. 1544, which now goes over to the House.

Most of my colleagues have probably never been to Rolla, and do not know what the Langer Plant is, or what it has been doing over the past several decades. So let me describe the background and purpose of my bill.

The Langer Plant has roots in the cold war. Back in the 1950's, our defense leadership realized that we lacked the ability to produce jewel bearings, which are finely machined bits of carborundum and were crucial components in military avionics systems. So the Congress located a jewel bearing plant in our State, because of our strategic location in the middle of the country. The Langer Plant has been making jewel bearings as a government-owned, contractor-operated facility since the 1950's.

My colleagues should also know that the plant is a few miles from the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. Of the plant's 100 or so employees remaining after a downsizing, about 60 percent are Native American. The Langer Plant brings crucial skilled jobs to an economically depressed area.

However, changing technology means that the National Defense Stockpile no longer needs to buy jewel bearings. The Defense Department has now reported the plant to the General Services Ad-

ministration as surplus property. Those of my colleagues who are dealing with base closures and defense downsizing know that this situation presents Rolla with a crisis and an opportunity.

The future of this factory depends on its ability to become a commercial manufacturer. Normal surplus property rules would require the GSA to sell the plant for fair market value. The problem is that no local entity can afford the plant, which had an original cost of \$4.2 million. The plant itself is not now healthy enough in a business sense to finance its own acquisition by a new management team.

In fact, the plant's economic position is so tenuous that the plant will likely run out of money in March, because it has not had a chance to build a strong commercial customer base. The plant has worked hard to cut costs, and it has already had to cut its workforce by 30 percent. I am deeply concerned that the plant may fold before it can be auctioned.

My colleagues will understand that as a government-owned facility, the plant is not able to compete freely, nor is it eligible for the kind of small business or economic development assistance that is available to private sector firms. However, once conveyed, the plant will be in a position to aggressively seek commercial contracts and assistance from the State and other agencies.

I would like to stress to the Senate that the Rolla community, the State of North Dakota, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and the local business community have been working hard to ensure that the plant makes a successful transition to the private sector. The local community is united behind the plan to transfer the Plant to the Job Development Authority of the city of Rolla. Of course, the conveyance is conditional on the community and the General Services Administration reaching a mutually acceptable legal agreement on the conveyance. But I am confident that the GSA and the community can reach that agreement swiftly.

Let me also remind my colleagues that in September the Senate approved by voice vote an amendment of mine to the defense authorization bill that was exactly identical to the bill that we passed on Friday. So this is the second time that the Senate has approved this legislation.

Let me thank the Chair and ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Senators STEVENS and GLENN, for their support of this bill. And the Chair and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, Senators THURMOND and NUNN, have been helpful to me for almost half a year now. Senator MCCAIN has also assisted in expediting this conveyance. I am deeply grateful to all five senators and their staffs for the support and assistance they have given me on this matter.

Mr. President, to sum up, I would simply say that S. 1544 tries to give a helping hand to the Langer Plant and the city of Rolla. It also will relieve the Federal Government of a facility that the Defense Department no longer needs. I am grateful to the Senate for its approval of S. 1544 on Friday, and I look forward to its swift passage by the House.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1868. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2029. An act to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide regulatory relief.

H.R. 2111. An act to designate the Federal Building located at 1221 Nevin Avenue, Richmond, California, as the "Francis J. Hagel Building".

H.R. 2726. An act to make certain technical corrections in laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1838. A communication from the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to offer transfer by sale of one vessel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1839. A communication from the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to offer transfer by sale of one vessel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1840. A communication from the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to offer transfer by sale of two vessels; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1841. A communication from the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to offer transfer by sale of three vessels; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1842. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on strategic and critical materials during the period October 1, 1994 through September 30, 1995; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1843. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on appropriations legislation within five days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-1844. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on appropriations legislation within five days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-1845. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Army, transmitting jointly, a notice to interchange jurisdiction relative to civil works and national forest lands; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1846. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice concerning the continuation of the emergency regarding terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1847. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1996 annual report on Foreign Policy Export Controls; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1848. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on credit availability for small business and small farms in calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1849. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of the Panama Canal Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Commission relative to unaudited financial statements for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1850. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report on tied aid credits; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1851. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Coal Research, Development, and Commercial Application Programs; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1852. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Federal Government energy management and conservation programs for fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1853. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the automotive technology development program for fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1854. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Coke Oven Emission Control Program for fiscal year 1995; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1855. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Royalty Management Program, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 704

At the request of Mr. SIMON, the names of the Senator from Maine [Mr. COHEN] and the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] were added as cospon-

sors of S. 704, a bill to establish the Gambling Impact Study Commission.

S. 1028

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to provide increased access to health care benefits, to provide increased portability of health care benefits, to provide increased security of health care benefits, to increase the purchasing power of individuals and small employers, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to require Congress to specify the source of authority under the United States Constitution for the enactment of laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to amend the Act of March 3, 1931 (known as the Davis-Bacon Act), to revise the standards for coverage under the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1247

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1247, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for contributions to a medical savings account by any individual who is covered under a catastrophic coverage health plan.

S. 1469

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1469, a bill to extend the United States-Israel free trade agreement to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the names of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. JOHNSTON], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] were added as cosponsors of S. 1491, a bill to reform antimicrobial pesticide registration, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 152, a resolution to amend the Standing Rules of the Senate to require a clause in each bill and resolution to specify the constitutional authority of the Congress for enactment, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE AGRICULTURAL MARKET TRANSITION ACT OF 1996

GREGG (AND REID) AMENDMENTS NOS. 3123-3124

(Ordered to lie on the table.)