

1995, and ask unanimous consent, to save the cost of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

(The nominations ordered to lie on the Secretary's desk were printed in the RECORD of November 9, 1995, at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 1719. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to offer to sell to certain public agencies the indebtedness representing the remaining repayment balance of certain Bureau of Reclamation projects in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1720. A bill to establish the Nicodemus National Historic Site and the New Bedford National Historic Landmark; ordered held at the desk.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 1719. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to offer to sell to certain public agencies the indebtedness representing the remaining repayment balance of certain Bureau of Reclamation projects in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

##### THE TEXAS RECLAMATION PROJECTS INDEBTED PURCHASE ACT

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I introduce today a bill on behalf of the State of Texas and several major water supply authorities in Texas. It would transfer title for Bureau of Reclamation projects to local control.

The purpose of this bill is to give local public agencies the right to make decisions regarding their own local water supplies. In doing so we will reduce the size of the Federal Government and save taxpayers significant amounts of money.

Mr. President, I mentioned that I am introducing this legislation on behalf of the State of Texas. Our goal is to create a process to allow the State of Texas or its public agencies to purchase and accept title to the Bureau of Reclamation projects in the State.

I submit this measure with the full support of the State of Texas. The State legislature recently passed a resolution, endorsed and signed by the Governor, accepting the responsibility for this process of title transfer.

My interest in this effort goes back to the last Congress, when in June 1994, I introduced S. 2236 in an effort to correct a longstanding problem involving the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the city of Corpus Christi.

That legislation directed the Secretary of the Interior to enter into and complete negotiations with the city of Corpus Christi concerning the Nueces River project, also known as Choke Canyon Reservoir. A hearing was held on the legislation, but the Congress ended before the Senate could act.

This year, with title transfers being encouraged by both the administration and Congress, it makes sense for the Choke Canyon legislation to be included with the broader Bureau of Reclamation legislation as developed by the State of Texas.

In 1976 the city of Corpus Christi and the Nueces River authority contracted with the Bureau for construction of Choke Canyon Reservoir on the Frio River near Three Rivers, TX. The primary purpose of the project was to provide additional water to the city of Corpus Christi through the year 2040. Since project completion in 1982, however, subsequent studies have determined that the current supply to the city from the project is less than contracted for, and that additional water supplies likely will be required by the year 2003.

The local sponsors are proposing that the repayment agreements be renegotiated to reflect the diminished water supply derived from the project, as well as the unanticipated expenses that the local sponsors have incurred to obtain additional water to compensate for the projected shortfall in the Choke Canyon-Lake Corpus Christi system.

I have incorporated the Choke Canyon project into this legislation for two reasons:

First, to pursue the intent of the original contract—because the city still is not getting the water it was promised;

Second and most important, I have introduced this legislation because the area is facing a very real water shortage. Due to the lower than anticipated yield from the Choke Canyon Reservoir, projections show the 12-county region it serves will be short of water within 10 years. This will affect nearly 400,000 people and numerous major industries.

The discount and prepayment conditions which the Corpus Christi is asking be negotiated are extremely important to the city's ability to ensure adequate future water supplies at affordable prices. Congressman SOLOMON ORTIZ has introduced similar legislation on the House side.

Also included in this legislation is a project near Amarillo in the congressional district of Congressman MAC THORBERRY: the Canadian River project. Construction of the Canadian River project by the BOR was authorized by Public Law 898 on December 29, 1950, to provide a source of municipal and industrial water to member cities of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains. The cities served include Amarillo, Borger, Brownfield, Lamesa, Levelland, Lubbock, O'Donnell, Pampa,

Plainview, Slaton, and Tahoka. These currently comprise a combined population of nearly 500,000 persons.

The major project facilities include Sanford Dam on the Canadian River 35 miles northeast of Amarillo, Lake Meredith which is formed by the dam, and a 322-mile aqueduct system that transports water from the lake to the member cities. The project was built in the 1960's and has supplied water to the cities continuously since 1968. Responsibility for operation and maintenance of the entire complex of municipal water supply facilities, including Sanford Dam, was transferred to the authority on July 1, 1968.

The project authorization—section 2. (c)(3)—provides that title to the aqueduct shall pass to the project sponsor upon payment of all obligations arising from the legislation and contract.

Total project cost was about \$83.8 million, of which about \$76.9 million is reimbursable to the United States by the Authority. Non-reimbursable components paid for flood control and fish and wildlife benefits. Including interest during construction, the original reimbursable obligation was \$83.7 million, repayable with interest at the rate of 2.632 percent over a term of 50 years. Twenty-six annual payments have been made.

Under this bill the outstanding balance would be purchased by the project sponsor, the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority. Title to the aqueduct would be transferred to the Authority. Title to the dam will not be transferred because of its flood-control functions, which need to remain under the supervision of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and title to the land around the reservoir to remain with the National Park Service because it is designated a National Recreation Area.

Purchase of the debt would be accomplished by payment of the net present value of the cash stream which would be required to repay the current indebtedness, discounted at U.S. Treasury rates on the date of purchase contract execution, after adjustment to reflect unrealized project benefits and outstanding credits.

##### ADVANTAGES FOR FEDERAL INTERESTS

Recent changes in the mission of the Bureau of Reclamation have reduced emphasis on water resource development projects. Now, the BOR's activities are regulatory in nature, for the most part, as they relate to existing projects. Transfer of Federal ownership would eliminate the need for BOR participation in the oversight of operation and maintenance, and relieve the Federal Government of liability related to operation of transferred facilities.

The cash payment to the Government would make funds available to support new projects that create jobs or which cannot be funded from present budget sources. Currently, BOR is considering the prospect of title transfer for selected projects, including the aqueduct system of the Canadian River Project. The debt purchase proposal in