arguably the application that might have the greatest impact on propane usage in this country. These changes were agreed to by parties representing propane producers and propane consumers.

Mr. THOMPSON. Does this bill allow funds to be used for any marketing and promotional activities.

Mr. DOMENICI. The bill stipulates that the PERC may engage in education of consumers regarding propane. In fact, a specific provision of the bill, section 5(h), requires the PERC to give priority to research and development, safety, education, and training in the development of programs and projects.

Mr. BUMPERS. How will the PERC distinguish between education and market promotion? What might be some examples, of activities that are intended to be permitted under this bill, and activities that are not?

Mr. DOMENICI. Activities not intended under this bill would include efforts by the PERC, or efforts supported by PERC-provided funding but carried out by other organizations, that solicit individuals to switch from other fuels to propane, or that subsidize such fuel switching. Such activities would certainly not qualify as education under any definition. Another example of an activity not contemplated by this bill would be a general media campaign of 30-second television commercials to the effect that propane is a good fuel choice. This would not be considered education, since the amount of substantive information likely to be contained in such a commercial would not qualify it as a legitimate educational tool. However, builder/architect outreach efforts that disseminate information about propane home heating devices, so that consumers likely to consider propane heating could make informed choices, would be permitted under this bill. Similarly, efforts to educate propane consumers about new advances in technology, such as the development of a propane heat pump or the development of new flaming technologies for weed control in agriculture, would be permitted. While these types of activities could be considered marketing or promotion, they education consumers by making them aware of more efficient and therefore less costly appliances and practices, and thus are beneficial to consumers. Similarly, efforts to disseminate safety-related educational materials which will benefit consumers, are also contemplated, even though it might be argued that such materials are promotional. During our hearing on this bill earlier this year the Propane Consumers Coalition readily acknowledged that these types of activities were contemplated under this bill and I believe this strikes an appropriate balance.

Mr. THOMPSON. Are there other consumer protection provisions included in the bill.

Mr. DOMENICI. Yes. The bill provides that if, in any year, the 5-year rolling prices index of propane exceeds by a specified level the 5-year rolling average price of a composite index of other home heating fuels, the activities of the PERC will be restricted to research and development, training, and safety programs. In addition, the bill requires certain studies and reports to ensure that the bill is having no adverse effect on consumers. Finally, three seats on the PERC are reserved for members representing the public. I firmly believe, and the Propane Consumers Coalition has testified before the Senate Energy Committee, that these provisions will ensure that this legislation will not have a negative effect on consumers.

Mr. THOMPSON. I thank the Senator.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Senator.

EXTENDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE URANIUM MILL TAILINGS RADIATION CONTROL ACT OF 1978

The bill (H.R. 2967) to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACT

The bill (H.R. 1823) to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District dated December 28, 1965, and November 26, 1985, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING HYDROGEN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS OF DOE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4138, received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4138) to authorize the hydrogen research, development, and demonstration programs of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4138) was deemed read the third time and passed.

IRRIGATION PROJECT CONTRACT EXTENSION ACT OF 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 604, S. 1649.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1649) to extend contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation districts in Kansas and Nebraska, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 1649

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Irrigation Project Contract Extension Act of 1996''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS.

The Secretary of the Interior shall extend the **[**construction repayment**]** and water service contracts for the following projects, entered into by the Secretary of the Interior under **[**subsections (d) and**]** *subsections* (e) of section 9 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h) and section 9(c) of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 891, chapter 665), for a period of 4 additional years after the dates on which each of the contracts, respectively, would expire but for this section:

[(1) The Ainsworth Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), the Act of August 21, 1954 (68 Stat. 757, chapter 781), and the Act of May 18, 1956 (70 Stat. 160, chapter 285), situated in Cherry County, Brown County, and Rock County, Nebraska.

[(2) The Almena Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 641, chapter 596), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Norton County and Phillips County, Kansas.**]**

[(3)**]***(1)* The Bostwick Unit (Kansas portion), Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Republic County, Jewell County, and Cloud County, Kansas.

[(4)**]***(2)* The Bostwick Unit (Nebraska portion), Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), as a component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, situated in Harlan County, Franklin County, Webster County, and Nuckolls County, Nebraska.

[(5)**]***(3)* The Farwell Unit, Missouri River Basin Project, consisting of the project constructed and operated under the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665), and