

projects. These bills would not be paid under a long-term CR.

Pay—All agencies would have to absorb Federal employee pay increases due in January. This will make it much more difficult for agencies to operate under a current rate and result in widespread layoffs and furloughs.

Pell Grants—A freeze in the Pell program will result in the accumulation of a significant shortfall. There will be a shortfall of over \$900 million, even when factoring in the \$1 billion supplemental appropriation provided to the program in fiscal year 2002.

DEA—We would be unable to hire new agents in response to FBI restructuring, which shifted 400 FBI drug agents to counter-terrorism. We have proposed to hire hundreds of new agents to fight the war on drugs. Not a single new agent would be hired under a long term CR leaving a significant gap in the federal government's drug enforcement capabilities.

GSA Construction—No new starts for any GSA line-item construction (\$630 million); would delay \$300 million for 11 courthouse construction projects, \$30 million for 6 border station construction projects, and \$300 million for 5 other construction projects, including funds for consolidating Food and Drug Administration facilities, a major Census building, and the US mission to the UN in New York. Projects would become more expensive due to inflation.

Campaign Finance Reform—No funding for implementation of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act making it difficult for the Federal Elections Commission to implement the reforms signed into law by the President.

Federal Prisons—Insufficient activation funds to four Federal prisons that are scheduled to open in FY 2003, exacerbating the already overcrowded conditions in the Federal prison system.

Medicare claims—We would not be able to provide additional funding, as proposed by the President, to handle the increased Medicare claims volume in a timely manner. The President proposed a \$143 million increase to adequately process the growing number of claims. A long term CR would significantly slow down the claims process and unnecessarily inconvenience Senior Citizens who depend on Medicare.

Yucca Mountain—A CR at the FY2002 enacted level of \$375M would significantly cut DOE's nuclear waste repository program by over \$200 million. This would cause real delays in the scheduled opening of the facility.

The Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) would be reduced \$114 million from current levels. This would result in less assistance being available for families who depend on this important program, especially in uncertain economic times.

The Food and Drug Administration would be reduced by \$138 million which would result in immediate furloughs and RIFs among newly hired employees responsible for enhanced availability of drugs and vaccines, and for increased food safety activities (primarily surveillance of imported food products, an identified vulnerability).

Social Security—The President also asked for a significant increase in funds to process and pay benefits to the millions of Social Security recipients.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my understanding is we are in a period of morning business. Is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today as an original cosponsor of the Missing Children's Assistance Act and to urge its prompt consideration by this body.

The Justice Department recently reported that in 1999, 797,500 children were reported missing to police or to missing children's agencies. That is equivalent to a startling 11.4 children per 1,000 in the U.S. population. There were 58,200 children who were victims of a non-family abduction in 1999. One hundred fifteen of these children were taken in a manner that we would think of as a stereotypical kidnapping, and tragically, in half of these cases, the child victim was sexually assaulted by the perpetrator. These statistics are unacceptable. As a Nation we should strive every day to eliminate the scourge of abducted children.

That's exactly what the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is all about. Since it was established in 1984, the Center has served as a resource to parents, children, law enforcement, schools, and the community to assist in the recovery of America's abducted children. It has worked on over 73,000 cases of missing and exploited children and successfully returned more than 48,000 of these children to their families. The Center is constantly striving to raise the Nation's awareness of preventative measures that can be taken to keep our children safe from abduction, sexual exploitation, and molestation. These notable endeavors have contributed to a substantial increase in nation's recovery rate of missing children from a dismal 61 percent in the 1980s to 91 percent today.

For these reasons, I rise today with the Senator from Utah and the Senator from Vermont to introduce the Missing Children's Assistance Act. This act will expand the ability of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to protect our children by doubling the Federal contribution to the Center to \$20 million a year and by ensuring that Congress will continue to support the Center's noteworthy efforts through 2006. The act also authorizes the creation of a CyberTipline. As technology continues to transform and modernize our lives, we must make provisions to insure that our children will be safe from perpetrators who prey on children through the Internet. The CyberTipline will provide a forum for individuals to contribute tips and suspicions of Internet-related and other types of sexual impropriety directed towards minors to

the authorities. It will allow those wary of contacting law enforcement a safe place to do so, while making it possible for law enforcement and missing children agencies to send email alerts to thousands of individuals instantaneously.

In the end, I believe that this act will make the Nation a safer place for our children. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has done a tremendous job of raising the nation's awareness of child abduction, and this act will make it possible for the Center to continue with these endeavors. I urge support for the Missing Children's Assistance Act. It is fundamental that our children's safety remain at forefront of our national agenda.

BANKRUPTCY CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to inform my colleagues that I have requested to be notified of any unanimous consent agreement before the Senate proceeds to the consideration of S. 3074 or any other legislation creating new bankruptcy judgeships. I believe that these changes should be enacted as part of the comprehensive bankruptcy reform conference report. Majority Leader DASCHLE has indicated that there will be a lame duck session, and he has indicated that the bankruptcy conference report will be taken up and passed. So I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to pass the comprehensive bankruptcy reform conference report.

CONFLICT DIAMONDS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, recently, the Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone briefed the staff of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee. He spoke about his efforts to prosecute those responsible for the horrific crimes that were committed there and to help this nation emerge from a tragic episode in its history.

Whenever something like this occurs, the question that first comes to mind is why did it happen? Was it a political struggle? Was it because of religious extremism or ethnic hatred? Unlike Yugoslavia or Rwanda, most experts believe that the driving force behind this brutal conflict was control of resources, especially diamonds.

The problems associated with conflict diamonds in Sierra Leone are not confined to West Africa. They also have an impact in the United States. According to the Washington Post, al Qaeda reaped millions of dollars from the illicit sale of diamonds, and law enforcement officials have said that in order to cut off al Qaeda funds, you have to cut off the diamond pipeline.

With all that is happening in the world, it may be understandable that the issue of conflict diamonds is not front page news. However, we are starting to make some progress on this important issue.