

(3) FISCAL YEAR 2002.—For fiscal year 2002, \$7,000,000.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The program referred to in subsection (a) is the program for which funds appropriated in title I of Public Law 106-69 under the heading "FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION" are available for obligation upon the enactment of legislation authorizing the program.

ARCTIC TUNDRA HABITAT EMERGENCY CONSERVATION ACT

ABRAHAM AMENDMENT NO. 2774

Mr. GRASSLEY (for Mr. ABRAHAM) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 2454) to assure the long-term conservation of mid-continent light geese and the biological diversity of the ecosystem upon which many North American migratory birds depend, by directing the Secretary of the Interior to implement rules to reduce the overabundant population of mid-continent light geese; as follows:

Strike Title II.

COASTAL BARRIER MAP BOUNDARY CLARIFICATION LEGISLATION

SMITH OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AMENDMENT NO. 2775

Mr. GRASSLEY (for Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1398) to clarify certain boundaries on maps relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System; as follows:

On page 2, line 25, strike "July 1, 1999" and insert "October 18, 1999".

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD NATO AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

LEVIN AMENDMENT NO. 2776

Mr. GRASSLEY (for Mr. LEVIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution (S. Res. 208) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United States policy toward the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, in light of the Alliance's April 1999 Washington Summit and the European Union's June 1999 Cologne Summit; as follows:

In section 1(b), strike paragraph (1) and insert the following:

(1) on matters of trans-Atlantic concern, the European Union should make clear that it would undertake an autonomous mission through the European Security and Defense Identity only after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization had declined to undertake that mission;

In section 1(b)(5), strike "must" and insert "should".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Monday, November 8, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. on mergers in the communications industry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on November 8, 1999, at 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. in Hart 216 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

PAUL KIRK ON "WHAT WE CAN DO FOR DEMOCRACY"

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, Paul Kirk, who is well known to many of us as a distinguished past chairman of the Democratic Party, recently wrote an eloquent and insightful article on the state of politics in America today. Entitled "What We Can Do For Democracy," Mr. Kirk's article discusses the growing political apathy of Americans, and challenges citizens to take a more active role in government. This issue goes to the heart of our democracy, and I believe that all of us who are concerned about it will be interested in Mr. Kirk's ideas. I ask that his article may be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Boston Globe, Nov. 3, 1999]

"WHAT WE CAN DO FOR DEMOCRACY"

(By Paul G. Kirk, Jr.)

Alarms have sounded; no one has panicked; the response has been universal. Much time and an estimated \$200 billion have been spent on readiness and remediation plans to avert a Y2K computer calamity. But how well are we responding to a Y2K alarm of greater consequence—the distressed health of America's democracy?

John Kennedy once admonished: "Democracy is never a final achievement . . . it is a call to an untiring effort." In this twilight of "America's Century" and before the dawn of a new millennium, now seems a logical time to take stock of our effort.

A few weeks ago the Kennedy Library observed its 20th anniversary by inviting more than 75 distinguished business leaders, college presidents, public officials, nonprofit executives, and journalists to begin the assessment. They found the following symptoms:

An all-time high level of cynicism, disaffection, and citizen disconnect from politics coincides with an all-time high level of powerful interest money being spent on political campaigns.

Money is now the all-consuming obsession of candidates and parties, the deterrent to political competition, the barrier to equal representation, the controlling factor in nominations and elections, and the corrupting influence of public policy decisions.

62 percent of Americans eligible to vote in the 1998 midterm election chose not to, while less than a majority voted in the 1996 presidential election.

Those of us who know less, care less, participate less, and vote less than other eligible voters are the 18- to 24-year-olds.

Personal consumption and borrowing are at an all-time high while our savings rate is at an all-time low.

Record market growth and new prosperity will likely result in the largest transfer of individual fortune and economic capital to the next generation in our history.

Concurrently, the abrogation of any obligation to transfer to the next generation some appreciation of civic capital and public responsibility is more palpable than ever in our history.

Writing of an earlier democracy, historian Edward Gibbon put our symptoms in perspective: "When the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society but for society to give to them, when the freedom they wished for most was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free."

Let's face it. We, too, have become so obsessed with self-gratification and gain that we view our rights and freedoms as entitlements and ignore the civic duties and responsibilities that ensure them.

George Santayana warned: "Those who fail to remember the past are condemned to repeat it." To avert a repeat of an Athenian calamity, Americans' attitudes must change.

When the Kennedy Library conference asked what we must do to strengthen citizenship and service for the future, the attendees responded:

The present "access for sale" culture must be replaced with comprehensive campaign finance reform that provides some public financing and free TV time to candidates who agree to reasonable spending limits. Only this can renew citizens' trust that our votes matter and our voices will be heard equally.

Civic literacy education must be ingrained from grade school through college with extra-curricular citizenship activities that include possible school credit for community service.

An attitude of welcome inclusion and continuing citizenship education must be available to all "new" Americans.

Each measure is critical, but who will assure their adoption? John W. Gardner counseled that the "plain truth is that government (and other powerful institutions) will not become worthy of trust until citizens take positive action to hold them to account." You and I can ignore the alarm, thus contributing to the calamity, or we can take positive action to rescue our democracy.

Citizens must launch a campaign to renew our national character and the spirit of citizenship and participation. One by one, our individual response can inspire a collective national chorus reminding others that our freedom and democracy are directly dependent on our own patriotism, active citizenship, unselfish service, respect for pluralism, and intolerance of the present condition.

Mark my words. If you and I commit "an untiring effort" to this national civic campaign, communities, organizations, educators, religious and business leaders, the media and opinion shapers, political candidates and parties, and, yes, the President of the United States whom we elect one year from now will follow.

Think about it. It's called "consent of the governed." It's our democracy, and it's a noble campaign you'll be proud to win. ●