

necessarily absent this evening during votes on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill for fiscal year 2001.

Mr. President, were I present, I would have voted for Senator WELLSTONE's amendment, number 3919.

Further, were I present, I would have voted for Senator SPECTER's amendment, number 3958. I am a cosponsor of the amendment. It corrects an inadvertent error in the 1997 Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 that prevents Amtrak from leasing automobiles from the General Services Administration. The amendment will enable Amtrak to continue leasing such vehicles until 2003.

Further, were I present, I would have voted to find Senator DURBIN's amendment, number 3980, germane. I am a cosponsor of the amendment. The Agriculture Appropriation bill includes a rider that would block efforts to reform the hardrock mining industry, which has caused and continues to cause substantial environmental damage to public lands. Senator DURBIN's amendment would have allowed needed reforms to proceed. I have submitted an additional statement on this issue into the RECORD.

Finally, were I present, I would have voted for final passage of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill for fiscal year 2001.●

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator REID for requesting a leave of absence for me for the duration of this week. I am traveling home today to attend and speak at tomorrow's memorial service for Mr. Bernie Whitebear, of Seattle, Washington, who passed away at the age of 62 on Sunday, July 16, 2000.

Earlier in the week, I did have a statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD about Bernie Whitebear and his many contributions to Washington state. He was a special man to my constituents. He was a special man to me. Bernie helped me understand Native American cultures from the inside as a participant not as someone sitting on the sidelines. On many occasions, Bernie exposed me to the sense of community and respect that he was always so proud of. Washington state will miss this great man and clearly, it is appropriate for me to be with my constituents tomorrow to celebrate Bernie Whitebear.

I thank my colleagues for their consideration and courtesies and I will have a longer statement next week to discuss Senate floor votes.●

HONORING JOSEPH M. GATT

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a distinguished citizen of Nevada, Joseph M. Gatt. Mr. Gatt's vi-

sion and innovation paved the way for millions of Americans to be able to secure a comfortable retirement. Nearly twenty-five years ago, he was instrumental in developing the prototype that was used for what ultimately became the 401(k) pension program.

Mr. Gatt has been a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada for almost forty years and was a pioneer in the field of financial planning. He worked as the Las Vegas agent for the Hartford Insurance Company when he initiated the new pension program for the benefits of the employees of the then MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The key to the program was the utilization of an existing IRA program on a joint funding basis; that is, with contributions from both the employer and the employees, which had never been done before. The incentive to the employee to contribute to the program was, of course, that the contribution was tax deductible. The Hartford program was so unique that it was necessary for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to approve it. On August 25, 1976, the IRS gave final approval for the Hartford program, and it went into effect immediately. Features of this pension plan included portability, 100 percent vesting whether or not the employees remained at MGM Grand, and generous company contributions. Indeed, Mr. Gatt and the MGM Grand were ahead of their time.

The Las Vegas resorts of Caesar's Place and Circus Circus Hotels soon followed suit. Today, 401(k) plans are an almost standard part of benefit packages for employees. According to Cerrulli & Associates, a marketing and research firm, there were 330,000 401(k) plans in the United States during the last quarter of 1999 in which \$2.7 trillion were invested. The creation of this now universally accepted and acclaimed program is a considerable credit to the State of Nevada, the gaming industry for being the first employer participants, and Joe Gatt for his insight and vision. On behalf of the citizens of Nevada and all Americans, I congratulate Mr. Gatt on this achievement and wish him continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET REQUEST ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 121

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 202(c) of the District of Columbia Financial Management and Responsibility Assistance Act of 1995 and section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Request Act.

The proposed FY 2001 Budget reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. For FY 2001, the District estimates revenue of \$5.718 billion and total expenditures of \$5.714 billion, resulting in a budget surplus of \$4.128 million.

My transmittal of the District of Columbia's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 20, 2000.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1102. An act to provide for pension reform, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4118. An act to prohibit the rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. PORTER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. OBAY, Mr. HOYER, Ms. PELOSI, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.