

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1474), as amended, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1474

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 "Palmetto Bend Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **PROJECT.**—the term "Project" means the Palmetto Bend Reclamation Project in the State of Texas authorized under Public Law 90-562 (82 Stat. 999).

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Water Development Board or the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority or both.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with all applicable law, and subject to the conditions set forth in sections 4 and 5, convey to the State all right, title and interest (excluding the mineral estate) in and to the Project held by the United States.

(b) **REPORT.**—If the conveyance under Section 3 has not been completed within 1 year and 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

- (1) the status of the conveyance;
- (2) any obstacles to completion of the conveyance; and
- (3) the anticipated date for completion of the conveyance.

SEC. 4. PAYMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As a condition of the conveyance, the State shall pay the Secretary the adjusted net present value of current repayment obligations on the Project, calculated 30 days prior to closing using a discount rate equal to the average interest rate on 30-year United States Treasury notes during the preceding calendar month, which following application of the State's August 1, 1999 payment, was, as of October 1999, calculated to be \$45,082,675 using a discount rate of 6.070 percent. The State shall also pay interest on the adjusted net present value of current repayment obligations from the date of the State's most recent annual payment until closing at the interest rate for constant maturity United States Treasury notes of an equivalent term.

(b) **OBLIGATION EXTINGUISHED.**—Upon payment by the State under subsection (a), the obligation of the State and the Bureau of Reclamation under the Bureau of Reclamation Contract No. 14-06-500-1880, as amended shall be extinguished. After completion of conveyance provided for in Section 3, the State shall assume full responsibility for all aspects of operation, maintenance and replacement of the Project.

(c) **ADDITIONAL COSTS.**—The State shall bear the cost of all boundary surveys, title searches, appraisals, and other transaction costs for the conveyance.

(d) **RECLAMATION FUND.**—All funds paid by the State to the Secretary under this section

shall be credited to the Reclamation Fund in the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 5. FUTURE MANAGEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As a condition of the conveyance under section 3, the State shall agree that the lands, water, and facilities of the Project shall continue to be managed and operated for the purposes for which the Project was originally authorized; that is, to provide a dependable municipal and industrial water supply, to conserve and develop fish and wildlife resources, and to enhance recreational opportunities. In future management of the Project, the State shall, consistent with other project purposes and the provision of dependable municipal and industrial water supply:

(1) provide full public access to the Project's lands, subject to reasonable restrictions for purposes of Project security, public safety, and natural resource protection;

(2) not sell or otherwise dispose of the lands conveyed under Section 3;

(3) prohibit private or exclusive uses of lands conveyed under Section 3;

(4) maintain and manage the Project's fish and wildlife resource and habitat for the benefit and enhancement of those resources;

(5) maintain and manage the Project's existing recreational facilities and assets, including open space, for the benefit of the general public;

(6) not charge the public recreational use fees that are more than is customary and reasonable.

(b) **FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT.**—As a condition of conveyance under Section 3, management decisions and actions affecting the public aspects of the Project (namely, fish, wildlife, and recreation resources) shall be conducted according to a management agreement between all recipients of title to the Project and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that has been approved by the Secretary and shall extend for the useful life of the Project.

(c) **EXISTING OBLIGATIONS.**—The United States shall assign to the State and the State shall accept all surface use obligations of the United States associated with the Project existing on the date of the conveyance including contracts, easements, and any permits or license agreements.

SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL ESTATE.

All mineral interests in the Project retained by the United States shall be managed consistent with Federal Law and in a manner that will not interfere with the purposes for which the Project was authorized.

SEC. 7. LIABILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on the date of conveyance of the Project, the United States shall be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the Project, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed prior to the date of conveyance by—

- (1) the United States; or
- (2) an employee, agent, or contractor of the United States.

(b) **NO INCREASE IN LIABILITY.**—Nothing in this Act increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided for in the Federal Tort Claims Act, (28 U.S.C. 2671 et seq.).

SEC. 8. FUTURE BENEFITS.

(a) **DEAUTHORIZATION.**—Effective on the date of conveyance of the Project, the Project conveyed under this Act shall be deauthorized.

(b) **NO RECLAMATION BENEFITS.**—After deauthorization of the Project under subsection (a), the State shall not be entitled to receive any benefits for the Project under

Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.).

EDUCATION LAND GRANT ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S. 624).

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 624) entitled "An Act to authorize construction of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System in the State of Montana, and for other purposes", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to ensure a safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water supply for the residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in the State of Montana; and
- (2) to assist the citizens of Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties in the State, outside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, in developing safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—The term "Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System" means the rural water system within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation authorized by section 4.

(2) **DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—The term "Dry Prairie Rural Water System" means the rural water system authorized by section 5 in the Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties of the State.

(3) **FORT PECK RESERVATION RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—The term "Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System" means the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System and the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(4) **FORT PECK TRIBES.**—The term "Fort Peck Tribes" means the Assiniboine and Sioux Indian Tribes within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(5) **PICK-SLOAN.**—The term "Pick-Sloan" means the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program (authorized by section 9 of the Act entitled "An Act authorizing the construction of certain public works on rivers and harbors for flood control, and for other purposes", approved December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the "Flood Control Act of 1944") (58 Stat. 891)).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Montana.

SEC. 4. ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary shall plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and replace a municipal, rural, and industrial water system, to be known as the "Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System", as generally described in the report required by subsection (g)(2).

(b) **COMPONENTS.**—The Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall consist of—

- (1) pumping and treatment facilities located along the Missouri River within the boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation;

(2) pipelines extending from the water treatment plant throughout the Fort Peck Indian Reservation;

(3) distribution and treatment facilities to serve the needs of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, including—

(A) public water systems in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act that may be purchased, improved, and repaired in accordance with the cooperative agreement entered into under subsection (c); and

(B) water systems owned by individual tribal members and other residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation;

(4) appurtenant buildings and access roads;

(5) all property and property rights necessary for the facilities described in this subsection;

(6) electrical power transmission and distribution facilities necessary for services to Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System facilities; and

(7) other pipelines, pumping plants, and facilities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to meet the water supply, economic, public health, and environmental needs of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, including water storage tanks, water lines, and other facilities for the Fort Peck Tribes and the villages, towns, and municipalities in the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board for planning, designing, constructing, operating, maintaining, and replacing the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System.

(2) MANDATORY PROVISIONS.—The cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall specify, in a manner that is acceptable to the Secretary and the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board—

(A) the responsibilities of each party to the agreement for—

(i) needs assessment, feasibility, and environmental studies;

(ii) engineering and design;

(iii) construction;

(iv) water conservation measures; and

(v) administration of contracts relating to performance of the activities described in clauses (i) through (iv);

(B) the procedures and requirements for approval and acceptance of the design and construction and for carrying out other activities described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) the rights, responsibilities, and liabilities of each party to the agreement.

(3) OPTIONAL PROVISIONS.—The cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) may include provisions relating to the purchase, improvement, and repair of water systems in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act, including systems owned by individual tribal members and other residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(4) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate a cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the quality of construction does not meet all standards established for similar facilities constructed by the Secretary; or

(B) the operation and maintenance of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System does not meet conditions acceptable to the Secretary that are adequate to fulfill the obligations of the United States to the Fort Peck Tribes.

(5) TRANSFER.—On execution of a cooperative agreement under paragraph (1), in accordance with the cooperative agreement, the Secretary may transfer to the Fort Peck Tribes, on a non-reimbursable basis, funds made available for the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System under section 9.

(d) SERVICE AREA.—The service area of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall

be the area within the boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(e) CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.—The components of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be planned and constructed to a size that is sufficient to meet the municipal, rural, and industrial water supply requirements of the service area of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System.

(f) TITLE TO ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—Title to the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be held in trust by the United States for the Fort Peck Tribes and shall not be transferred unless a transfer is authorized by an Act of Congress enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—The Secretary shall not obligate funds for construction of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System until—

(1) the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) are met with respect to the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System;

(2) on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of submission to Congress of a final engineering report approved by the Secretary; and

(3) the Secretary publishes a written finding that the water conservation plan developed under section 7 includes prudent and reasonable water conservation measures for the operation of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System that have been shown to be economically and financially feasible.

(h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide such technical assistance as is necessary to enable the Fort Peck Tribes to plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and replace the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System, including operation and management training.

(i) APPLICATION OF INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ACT.—Planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation shall be subject to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(j) COST SHARING.—

(1) CONSTRUCTION.—The Federal share of the cost of construction of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be 100 percent, and shall be funded through annual appropriations to the Bureau of Reclamation.

(2) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—The Federal share of the cost of operation and maintenance of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be 100 percent, and shall be funded through annual appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

SEC. 5. DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.

(a) PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Incorporated (or any successor non-Federal entity) to provide Federal funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System in Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties, Montana, outside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(2) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—

(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of planning, design, and construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System shall be not more than 76 percent, and shall be funded with amounts appropriated from the reclamation fund. Such amounts shall not be returnable or reimbursable under the Federal reclamation laws.

(B) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Federal funds made available to carry out this section may be obligated and expended only through a cooperative agreement entered into under subsection (c).

(b) COMPONENTS.—The components of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System facilities on which Federal funds may be obligated and expended under this section shall include—

(1) storage, pumping, interconnection, and pipeline facilities;

(2) appurtenant buildings and access roads;

(3) all property and property rights necessary for the facilities described in this subsection;

(4) electrical power transmission and distribution facilities necessary for service to Dry Prairie Rural Water System facilities; and

(5) other facilities customary to the development of rural water distribution systems in the State, including supplemental water intake, pumping, and treatment facilities.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System Board, shall enter into a cooperative agreement with Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Incorporated to provide Federal assistance for the planning, design, and construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(2) MANDATORY PROVISIONS.—The cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall specify, in a manner that is acceptable to the Secretary and Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Incorporated—

(A) the responsibilities of each party to the agreement for—

(i) needs assessment, feasibility, and environmental studies;

(ii) engineering and design;

(iii) construction;

(iv) water conservation measures; and

(v) administration of contracts relating to performance of the activities described in clauses (i) through (iv);

(B) the procedures and requirements for approval and acceptance of the design and construction and for carrying out other activities described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) the rights, responsibilities, and liabilities of each party to the agreement.

(d) SERVICE AREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the service area of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System shall be the area in the State—

(A) north of the Missouri River;

(B) south of the border between the United States and Canada;

(C) west of the border between the States of North Dakota and Montana; and

(D) east of the western line of range 39 east.

(2) FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION.—The service area shall not include the area inside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(e) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—The Secretary shall not obligate funds for construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System until—

(1) the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) are met with respect to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System;

(2) on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of submission to Congress of a final engineering report approved by the Secretary; and

(3) the Secretary publishes a written finding that the water conservation plan developed under section 7 includes prudent and reasonable water conservation measures for the operation of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System that have been shown to be economically and financially feasible.

(f) INTERCONNECTION OF FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) interconnect the Dry Prairie Rural Water System with the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System; and

(2) provide for the delivery of water to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System from the Missouri

River through the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System.

(g) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**—
(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The operation, maintenance, and replacement expenses associated with water deliveries from the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System shall not be a Federal responsibility and shall be borne by the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(2) **FEDERAL FUNDS.**—The Secretary may not obligate or expend any Federal funds for the operation, maintenance, or replacement of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(h) **TITLE TO DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—Title to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System shall be held by Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Incorporated.

SEC. 6. USE OF PICK-SLOAN POWER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From power designated for future irrigation and drainage pumping for the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program, the Western Area Power Administration shall make available, at the firm power rate, the capacity and energy required to meet the pumping and incidental operational requirements of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System.

(b) **QUALIFICATION TO USE PICK-SLOAN POWER.**—For as long as the Fort Peck Reservation rural water supply system operates on a not-for-profit basis, the portions of the water supply project constructed with assistance under this Act shall be eligible to receive firm power from the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program established by section 9 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter 665; 58 Stat. 887), popularly known as the Flood Control Act of 1944.

(c) **RECOVERY OF EXPENSES.**—

(1) **ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—In the case of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System, the Western Area Power Administration shall recover expenses associated with power purchases under subsection (a) through a separate power charge sufficient to cover such expenses. Such charge shall be paid fully through the annual appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(2) **DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—In the case of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System, the Western Area Power Administration shall recover expenses associated with power purchases under subsection (a) through a separate power charge sufficient to cover expenses. Such charge shall be paid fully by the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(d) **ADDITIONAL POWER.**—If power in addition to that made available under subsection (a) is required to meet the pumping requirements of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may purchase the necessary additional power at the best available rate. The costs of such purchases shall be reimbursed to the Administrator according to the terms identified in subsection (c).

SEC. 7. WATER CONSERVATION PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Fort Peck Tribes and Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Incorporated shall develop a water conservation plan containing—

(1) a description of water conservation objectives;

(2) a description of appropriate water conservation measures; and

(3) a time schedule for implementing the measures and this Act to meet the water conservation objectives.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The water conservation plan under subsection (a) shall be designed to ensure that users of water from the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System and the Dry Prairie Rural Water System will use the best practicable technology and management techniques to conserve water.

(c) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—Section 210(c) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390jj(c)) shall apply to an activity authorized under this Act.

SEC. 8. WATER RIGHTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This Act does not—

(1) impair the validity of or preempt any provision of State water law or any interstate compact governing water;

(2) alter the right of any State to any appropriated share of the water of any body of surface or ground water, whether determined by any past or future interstate compact or by any past or future legislative or final judicial allocation;

(3) preempt or modify any Federal or State law or interstate compact concerning water quality or disposal;

(4) confer on any non-Federal entity the authority to exercise any Federal right to the water of any stream or to any ground water resource;

(5) affect any right of the Fort Peck Tribes to water, located within or outside the external boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, based on a treaty, compact, executive order, agreement, Act of Congress, aboriginal title, the decision in *Winters v. United States*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908) (commonly known as the “Winters Doctrine”), or other law; or

(6) validate or invalidate any assertion of the existence, nonexistence, or extinguishment of any water right held or Indian water compact entered into by the Fort Peck Tribes or by any other Indian tribe or individual Indian under Federal or State law.

(b) **OFFSET AGAINST CLAIMS.**—Any funds received by the Fort Peck Tribes pursuant to this Act shall be used to offset any claims for money damages against the United States by the Fort Peck Tribes, existing on the date of the enactment of this Act, for water rights based on a treaty, compact, executive order, agreement, Act of Congress, aboriginal title, the decision in *Winters v. United States*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908), or other law.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) to the Bureau of Reclamation over a period of 10 fiscal years, \$124,000,000 for the planning, design, and construction of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System; and

(2) to the Bureau of Indian Affairs such sums as are necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System.

(b) **DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—There is authorized to be appropriated, over a period of 10 fiscal years, \$51,000,000 for the planning, design, and construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(c) **COST INDEXING.**—The funds authorized to be appropriated may be increased or decreased by such amounts as are justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in development costs incurred after October 1, 1998, as indicated by engineering cost indices applicable for the type of construction involved.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate agree to the amendment of the house.

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

CONVEYING WATER FACILITIES TO THE NORTHERN COLORADO WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to H.R. 4389, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4389) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4389) was read the third time and passed.

MISSOURI RIVER BASIN PROJECT

PROSSER DIVERSION DAM

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Energy Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2984 and H.R. 3986. I further ask consent the Senate proceed en bloc to their consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2984) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to convey to the Loup Basin Reclamation District, the Sargent River Irrigation District, and the Farwell Irrigation District, Nebraska, property comprising the assets of the Middle Loup Division of the Missouri River Basin Project, Nebraska;

A bill (H.R. 3986) to provide for a study of the engineering feasibility of a water exchange in lieu of electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington.

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today, the Senate will pass H.R. 3986, a bill introduced by Representative DOC HASTINGS, R-Washington, that will authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to study the feasibility of moving the intake system for the Kennewick Irrigation District from the Yakima River to the Columbia River. I introduced a similar bill earlier this year, S. 2163, which was passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee earlier this month. The Senate's action today sends this bill, critical to Central Washington's efforts to recover threatened and endangered salmon, to the President's desk—an achievement long sought by the Yakama Indian Nation and the irrigators of the Yakima River Basin.

Disputes over how to allocate and use water have always been contentious in the Pacific Northwest, and the disputes have only become more difficult as the region has been forced to deal with the recovery of threatened and endangered