

desk: S. 2638 from the Energy Committee and H.R. 3388.

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

The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2638) to adjust the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to include Cat Island, Mississippi.

A bill (H.R. 3388) to promote environmental restoration around the Lake Tahoe Basin.

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

MINERAL RIGHTS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I thank Chairman MURKOWSKI, Senator CRAIG THOMAS, and the members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for reporting out and helping Senator Lott and me secure passage of Senate Bill 2638, the Cat Island authorization legislation. When Senator Lott and I introduced the legislation earlier this year, we sought to preserve the beautiful, natural treasure of Cat Island, Mississippi, and complete the vision of the Gulf Islands National Seashore begun nearly 30 years ago. The passage of this legislation begins this process by authorizing the National Park Service to acquire the island and save it for future generations.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in our legislation, we also sought, at the request of our Mississippi State officials, to clarify the State of Mississippi's ownership in the mineral rights underlying the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Mississippi conveyed much of the surface property to create the Seashore in 1972. Until recently, the National Park Service has conceded ownership of these subsurface rights to Mississippi, as is reflected in the State's authorizing legislation in 1971 and the subsequent deed signed by the Governor and other Mississippi State officials. A copy of such deed is entered into the record with this statement. The only limitation on these rights was to be the way in which any future development of them occurred, so that the surface of the Seashore property would not be used for extraction of the minerals.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, our State officials, and we today, acknowledge that the Gulf Islands National Seashore should be preserved and protected as a place of relatively undeveloped natural beauty, and that does involve limitations on minerals development but not a reinterpretation by the Park Service of the ownership of these mineral rights. These rights are important to Mississippi and may offer our State in the future much needed income to address education, health care and other priorities for our citizens.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the bill as introduced included language which would have allowed the State of Mis-

issippi to maintain the State's rights in or to any oil, gas, or other minerals through this acquisition. After further review of this legislation and the deed and related documents, our inclusion of the mineral rights provision was unnecessary, as the language was merely redundant with respect to the deed of 1972. It is our understanding that the deed clearly reserves the State of Mississippi's mineral rights with respect to the Gulf Islands National Seashore, and that no additional legislative language on mineral rights is required in the Cat Island legislation, because the State has made no conveyance with respect to Cat Island. Does the Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee agree?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Yes, Mr. President, I agree. This legislation does not overturn the State of Mississippi's reservation of its mineral rights. The deed asserts ownership, and this legislation does nothing to discredit such deed.

I thank Senator COCHRAN and Senator LOTT for their sponsorship of this legislation that will preserve Cat Island and add the last piece of the Mississippi Sound Barrier Islands to the Gulf Islands National Seashore. It is an important addition and one that will be treasured for years to come.

AMENDMENT NO. 4351 TO S. 2638

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] for Mr. MURKOWSKI, for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 4351.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 4351 to S. 2638 be agreed to, the bills be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD with the above occurring en bloc.

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

The amendment (No. 4351) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2638), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The bill (H.R. 3388) was read the third time and passed.

SIX-HUNDRED MILE RESOURCE STUDY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON ROUTE

ALEXANDER HAMILTON HOME LOCATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following bills en bloc: H.R. 4794 and H.R. 5478.

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

The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4794) to require the Secretary of the Interior to complete a resource study of the 600-mile route used by George Washington during the American Revolutionary War.

A bill (H.R. 5478) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation suitable land to serve as the new location for the home of Alexander Hamilton.

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD, with the above occurring en bloc.

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

The bills (H.R. 4794 and H.R. 5478) were read the third time and passed.

USE OF SOLANO PROJECT FACILITIES FOR NON-PROJECT WATER

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy Committee be discharged from the following bill and the Senate proceed to its consideration and the consideration of the following bill on the calendar: S. 1761 from the Energy Committee; Calendar No. 855, H.R. 1235.

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

The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1761) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conserve and enhance water supplies of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

A bill (H.R. 1235) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Solano County Water Agency, California, to use Solano Project facilities for impounding, storage, and carriage of non-project water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4352 TO S. 1761

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) for Mr. MURKOWSKI proposes an amendment numbered 4352.

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000".