

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 65

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 Armed Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the report containing the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) pursuant to section 2903 of Public Law 101-510, 104 Stat. 1810, as amended.

I hereby certify that I approve all the recommendations contained in the Commission's report.

In a July 8, 1995, letter to Deputy Secretary of Defense White (attached), Chairman Dixon confirmed that the Commission's recommendations permit the Department of Defense to privatize the work loads of the McClellan and Kelly facilities in place or elsewhere in their respective communities. The ability of the Defense Department to do this mitigates the economic impact on those communities, while helping the Air Force avoid the disruption in readiness that would result from relocation, as well as preserve the important defense work forces there.

As I transmit this report to the Congress, I want to emphasize that the Commission's agreement that the Secretary enjoys full authority and discretion to transfer work load from these two installations to the private sector, in place, locally or otherwise, is an integral part of the report. Should the Congress approve this package but then subsequently take action in other legislation to restrict privatization options at McClellan or Kelly, I would regard that action as a breach of Public Law 101-510 in the same manner as if the Congress were to attempt to reverse by legislation any other material direction of this or any other BRAC.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 13, 1995.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:29 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1905. An act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 169(b) of Public Law 102-138, the Speaker appoints the following Members to the U.S. Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on the part of the House: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Vice Chairman, Mr.

HOYER, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1905. An act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1155. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a draft of proposed legislation to clarify ambiguity relating to the applicability of section 3703a of title 46, United States Code, to vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1156. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to increased aeronautical chart prices; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1157. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to airport redevelopment areas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1158. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to metric conversion; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1159. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1160. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1161. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1162. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intention to make refunds of offshore lease revenues where a refund or recoupment is appropriate; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1163. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1994 annual report of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preser-

vation Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1164. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of progress on the clean water state revolving fund; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1165. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to abnormal occurrences; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1166. A communication from the Deputy Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a space situation report for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration consolidation for Hampton Roads, VA; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1167. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend and extend the Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended for 2 years; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1168. A communication from the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of intent to submit a corrected final edition of a report relative to the defense environmental restoration program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1169. A communication from the General Counsel of the Navy, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Uniform National Discharge Standards for Armed Forces Vessels Act of 1995"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1170. A communication from the Assistant Secretary (Legislative Affairs), Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Earned Income Tax Credit; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1171. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to worker adjustment assistance training funds; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1172. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the emigration laws and policies of the Republic of Bulgaria; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1173. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to improve payment integrity in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1174. A communication from the Director of the Department of Legislative Reference, transmitting, pursuant to law, a compact relative to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1175. A communication from the Attorney General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 1994 report of the activities of the Federal Courts under the Equal Access to Justice Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1176. A communication from the Attorney for the National Council of Radiation Protection and Measurements, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1994 annual report of independent auditors of the records of the Council; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1177. A communication from the General Counsel and Chief Financial Officer of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting, pursuant to law, the calendar year 1994 audit report; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1178. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to exempt HUD and Agriculture multifamily loan foreclosures and related actions from the bankruptcy code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1033. An original bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish uniform national discharge standards for the control of water pollution from vessels of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-113).

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DODD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GREGG, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. PELL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SIMON, Mr. CHAFEE and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1028. A bill to provide increased access to health care benefits, to provide increased portability of health care benefits, to provide increased security of health care benefits, to increase the purchasing power of individuals and small employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce on behalf of myself, Senators KENNEDY, FRIST, GREGG, JEFFORDS, GORTON, HATCH, CHAFEE, PELL, DODD, SIMON, MIKULSKI, WELLSTONE, and LIEBERMAN, the Health Insurance Reform Act of 1995.

This legislation will make it easier for individuals and employers to buy and keep health insurance—even when a family member or employee becomes ill. And it will allow people to change jobs without fear of losing their health coverage.

Despite past State and Federal reform efforts, the lack of poor portability of health insurance remains a serious concern for many Americans, particularly those with preexisting health conditions. The General Accounting Office estimates that as many as 25 million Americans could benefit from this legislation.

The Health Insurance Reform Act builds upon and strengthens the current private insurance market by, one, guaranteeing that private health insurance coverage will be available, renewable and portable; two, limiting preexisting condition exclusions; and, three, increasing the purchasing clout of individuals and small employers by creating incentives to form private, voluntary coalitions to negotiate with the providers and health plans.

Mr. President, I believe that the American people want us to work to-

gether to fix what is broken in the current system without relying on big Government solutions.

The legislation we are introducing today does not impose new, expensive regulatory requirements on individuals, employers or States. It does not create new Federal bureaucracies. It does not create any new taxes, spending or price controls nor does it require employers to pay for health insurance coverage.

While this insurance reform legislation alone will not cure all the ills of the Nation's health care system, it will in some small and important ways, I believe, promote greater access and security for health coverage for all Americans by requiring private insurance carriers to compete based on quality, price, and service instead of by refusing to provide coverage to those who are in poor health and who need it the most.

Mr. President, I want to thank all of my cosponsors. Senators GREGG, FRIST, JEFFORDS, HATCH and GORTON have all contributed a great deal to this effort. Senator JEFFORDS has worked particularly hard on the group purchasing provisions of the legislation. But I want to especially recognize the contributions of the ranking member of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, Senator KENNEDY. He has worked, along with his staff, for many hours, in many ways, to help make this legislation a bipartisan effort. Senator KENNEDY has spent many years on the health care agenda working tirelessly to improve the health care delivery system. And I am particularly pleased that this is such a strong bipartisan bill that we are introducing today. It is not a major piece of legislation. As I said, it is not going to be the answer to all the ills in our health care system. But I think it is a very important step forward.

I am confident that with the support of the other original cosponsors and others, the Labor Committee we will be able to report this legislation favorably in the near future and we can begin to move forward, on a bipartisan basis, to make private health insurance more readily available, more secure and more affordable for all Americans. Mr. President, I intend to work with all of my colleagues to ensure that these reforms are enacted during the 104th Congress.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, first of all, I welcome the opportunity to join Senator KASSEBAUM in the introduction of the Health Insurance Reform Act of 1995. I would like to pay tribute to her leadership in this area which is of enormous concern to the American people—addressing the issue of access to health insurance in a way that is going to be reasonable for working families in this country.

Making health insurance available to working Americans means they will be able to receive the kind of high-quality health care that is possible in this country—and that care will be available in the inner cities and rural com-

munities of this country. Improving access to health care is one more way of stressing the obvious importance of prevention and demonstrating our commitment to the American people, particularly our seniors, to provide them with the security of health benefits in this diverse and complex Nation.

Building on the current health care system is incredibly, incredibly difficult and complex. Many of us have been addressing this issue over a considerable period of time. I think comprehensive reform of the system is still a very, very worthy objective.

But what we have today is something which, I think, is extremely important. There will be those who say, "Well, have we lost our goal of trying to deal in a comprehensive way? Should we just come back and try to reform the entire system? Let's just wait for the opportunity to do so."

Senator KASSEBAUM has said, "Let us try to find common ground and let us try to make progress in areas where progress can be made. And, at a time where we do have diversity on a great many issues that are of very great importance and where there is a difference in viewpoint by the American people, expressed by their representatives—let us put that aside and say that it is more important for families in this country to have access to health care; it is more important to make meaningful progress to try to address their central needs." I think she deserves great credit for these initiatives and for working in a very strong, bipartisan way to try to find common ground on an issue which is going to make a very important and significant difference in the lives of millions of Americans who have preexisting conditions. This bill will help respond to the real needs and anxieties of millions of people.

Often we debate and discuss the bottom line issues in terms of cost, and that is certainly important. But for those who have a disability, we forget that these people live with a sense of fear and anxiety about what their future holds and whether they will have coverage for their health needs, or whether they will be locked into a particular work situation. The reforms in this bill let people know that Congress believes our working Americans deserve opportunities for moving ahead in terms of their career and progress for their families—which have been limited. It also encourages small businesses to work together to try to leverage the system in a positive and constructive way by using their purchasing power in the economy to negotiate a more reasonable cost for health care.

So, even though some might consider this a modest step, I think it is an extremely important one. And it is one in which I welcome the opportunity to work with Senator KASSEBAUM and to work with Senator JEFFORDS, who, as Senator KASSEBAUM has mentioned, spends a great deal of time on this issue. Many others on our committee