Strong, Thomas Charles Dillon, Johnathon Paul Flora, Richard James Adair, Troy Lynn Duncan, Roland Edgar Chevalier, Jr., David Cameron Harris, Anthony Crawford Jones, Kenneth Grant Nauska, Gary George Wohfiel, Frank Stuart Rodman, Larry Robert Carr, John David Stimson, Gordon Brewster Bartel, Harry Biddington Hanson, Jr., Ronald Eugene Zimin, Robert Lee Bittick, Leroy Garvin Bohuslov, and Claude Everett Swackhammer.

Mr. President, in closing I bring to the attention of my colleagues the Blue Ribbon Campaign organized by Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., also known as COPS.

Blue ribbons are being flown this week from patrol antennas nationwide to ask communities to support law enforcement, and to remember those officers who have given their lives in the line of duty. You can see them flying proudly from our Capitol Hill Police patrol cars.

In keeping with this sign of support and remembrance, I urge all Alaskans to fly blue ribbons from their car antennas this week.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's executive calendar: All nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed, en bloc, as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE, ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY

Air Force nominations beginning Brian H. Benedict, and ending Daniel K. Roberts, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 20, 1996

Air Force nominations beginning Michael G. Colangelo, and ending John J. Barlettano, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 20, 1996

Army nominations beginning Ralph G. Benson, and ending Jesse L. Thornton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 1, 1996

Army nominations beginning Wesley S. Ashton, and ending Valerie E. Holmes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 26, 1996

Army nominations beginning Andre B. Abadie, and ending Steven Paul Zynda, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 26, 1996

Army nomination of Mark H. Lauber, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning Jeffery Dootson, and ending Jon E. Schiff, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning Daniel Bolas, and ending Paul S. Darby, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning Richard R. Eckert, and ending Robert S. Knapp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning Ernest R. Adkins, and ending James C. Robertson, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning *Raymond A. Constabile, and ending Neil W. Ahle, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning *William E. Ackerman, and ending *Myrna E. Zapata, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Marine Corps nominations beginning Michael C. Albano, and ending Richard C. Zilmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 20, 1996.

Marine Corps nominations beginning William S. Aitken, and ending Douglas P. Yurovich, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 20, 1996.

Marine Corps nominations beginning Joel H. Berry III, and ending Wayne R. Steele, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996.

Marine Corps nominations beginning Craig R. Abele, and ending Paul E. Zambelli, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 1996.

Marine Corps nominations beginning Carlton W. Adams, and ending Donald C. Prograis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 1996.

Navy nominations beginning David L. Aamodt, and ending Schon M. Zwakman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

AMENDING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2066, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2066) to amend the National School Lunch Act to provide greater flexibility to schools to meet the dietary guidelines for Americans under the school lunch and school breakfast programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

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

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the bill before us today amends the National School Lunch Act to provide greater flexibility to school food service authorities to meet the USDA dietary guidelines for Americans. It is a positive step in providing healthy meals for our Nation's school children.

As I have stated on numerous occasions, the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs work. School food service authorities have worked for nearly 50 years feeding millions of children each school day healthy meals. In recent years they have worked even harder to reduce the fat and sodium in the meals. I support these changes made by school food authorities to improve the nutritional profile of school meals; and I believe it is important to provide them adequate flexibility to serve meals that meet the USDA dietary guidelines for Americans and the recommended dietary allowances.

The purpose of the bill, which is similar to one introduced by the distinguished Senator from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, is not to delete or postpone the implementation of the dietary guidelines as contained in the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994. It is, however, to provide needed flexibility and clarity to meet these requirements in a cost efficient manner. Guidelines issued by the Department of Agriculture to assist schools in meeting nutrition requirements should reflect the intent of the bill and should not require intensive paperwork or sophisticated nutrient analysis of meals prior to food service.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently issued a policy statement revising the instructions for crediting grains and breads in the National School Lunch Program. The policy statement is complicated and potentially costly to schools. While I support the philosophy of the Department to assist schools in meeting the dietary guidelines, I question the need for such an explicit policy statement. It is my hope that this legislation, along with assistance from the Department of Agriculture, will help school food service authorities serve meals that meet the nutritional requirements and children will eat.

This legislation has strong support from the Indiana School Food Service Association and the American School Food Service Association. It is also supported by the Clinton administration.

I urge Senators to support the bill.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, today the Senate is considering H.R. 2066, a bill that is virtually the same as S.

1613, which I introduced in the Senate earlier this year.

The purpose of this legislation is to amend the National School Lunch Act to provide greater flexibility to schools to meet the dietary guidelines for Americans contained in Public Law 103–448, the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994. This bill does not postpone or reduce in any way the statutory requirement that schools have to meet these dietary guidelines.

The National School Lunch Program currently operates in over 92,000 schools and serves approximately 26 million children each day. In my State of Mississippi approximately 7 out of 10 children participate in the School Lunch Program.

The Secretary should take measures to ensure accountability, but should ensure those measures do not reduce the flexibility in this bill. It is not the intent of this bill for the Secretary to require school food authorities to provide detailed information about recipes, menus, nutrients, or nutrient analyses in order to receive approval to use a menu-planning method other than the three prescribed by USDA. Limitations on staff time and resources could make it extremely difficult for many school food authorities to provide such information. Schools that desire to use the 1994–95 food-based meal policies are entitled to do so under this legislation without preapproval. This legislation will also allow schools to consider local and regional preferences when preparing meals.

This bill has received wide support from school representatives at both the local and national level and from the administration. Earlier this week the other body passed this bill by unanimous consent. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise in support of H.R. 2066, which is identical to S. 1613, a bill which I cosponsored. The purpose of this legislation is to provide commonsense flexibility to schools in meeting the statutory requirement of serving meals that meet the dietary guidelines for Americans under the school lunch and breakfast programs.

The dietary guidelines for Americans were first issued jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services in 1980, and have been revised several times since to reflect developments in scientific opinion. They present reasonable suggestions for how healthy Americans should eat to help them stay healthy. Congress has required that the school lunch and breakfast programs meet standards outlined in the dietary guidelines beginning with the 1996–97 school year.

Local school food service personnel have been working hard to improve the nutritional quality of school meals so that the dietary guidelines would be met. Good progress has been underway in virtually all schools, and many schools have met the dietary guidelines for a number of years using the existing food-based meal pattern. Unfortunately, recent regulatory efforts by the Department of Agriculture seem to have been undertaken with such good-intentioned zeal that local school food service personnel found themselves being micromanaged from Washington. Mr. President, there are relatively few things that work out well when mandated in detail from Washington and then implemented without reasonable discretion across the country. In school lunches and breakfasts, that is a recipe for disaster.

This legislation makes crystal clear that the regulations, policies, and guidelines in effect in 1994–95 school year are to be available to schools as one of the reasonable means of meeting the dietary guidelines. This legislation reaches beyond the regulations to the informal policy guidance documents. For example, the Department of Agriculture has issued a new policy regarding bread serving sizes that could have been issued under the 1994–95 food plan regulations, but was not. This new policy specifies, among other things, various sizes for muffins that must be served to meet the new policy. The sizes depend on the ingredients, and in some cases, the size of muffins would have to double. This legislation provides that the previous bread policy is available to schools in serving a food-based menu plan. This legislation is not to be construed as permitting new mandates or overly-clever interpretations in informal policy statements with the effect of defeating flexibility for local schools. This is just the sort of micromanagement from Washington our schools do not need.

Mr. President, I know and appreciate the work of school food service personnel. They work day in and day out to provide the best possible meals for the children of their school. Often, they are preparing meals for their own children. The Department of Agriculture should not again lose sight of that commitment by local school personnel. Instead of detailed mandates that prove to be unworkable, USDA should strive to work with the local food service personnel who feed our children each school day.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 2066) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 334, S. 1005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1005) to amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to improve the process of constructing, altering, purchasing, and acquiring public buildings, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Public Buildings Reform Act of 1995''.

SEC. 2. SITE SELECTION.

Section 5 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (40 U.S.C. 604) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) CONSIDERATION OF COSTS.—In selecting a site for a project to construct, alter, or acquire a public building, or to lease office or any other type of space, under this Act, the Administrator shall consider the impact of the selection of a particular site on the cost and space efficiency of the project.''.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (40 U.S.C. 606) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the last sentence;

(B) in the first sentence, by striking ''In order'' and inserting the following:

''(2) PREREQUISITES TO OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—

''(B) APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, AND ACQUISITION.—In order'';

(C) in the second sentence, by striking ''No'' and inserting the following:

''(ii) LEASE.—No'';

(D) in the third sentence, by striking ''No'' and inserting the following:

''(iii) ALTERATION.—No'';

(E) by striking ''SEC. 7. (a)'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 7. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) PUBLIC BUILDINGS PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the President submits to Congress the budget of the United States Government under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a public buildings plan (referred to in this subsection as the 'triennial plan') for the first 3 fiscal years that begin after the date of submission. The triennial plan shall specify such projects for which approval is required under paragraph (2)(B) relating to the construction, alteration, or acquisition of public buildings, or the lease of office or any other type of space, as the Administrator determines are necessary to carry out the duties of the Administrator under this Act or any other law.

''(B) CONTENTS.—The triennial plan shall include—

''(i) a 5-year strategic management plan for capital assets under the control of the Administrator that—

''(I) provides for accommodating the office space and other public building needs of the Federal Government; and

''(II) is based on procurement mechanisms that allow the Administrator to take advantage