

PERMANENT PERFORMANCE
REVIEW ACT OF 1996

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Permanent Performance Review Act of 1996. This bill would apply performance reviews to all of the agencies and departments of the Federal Government and thus enable Congress to tackle more effectively both our Government's budget and performance deficits.

Performance reviews enable an organization to measure how successful a program or office is in reaching its goals. With such information in hand, those responsible for making a budget can do a better job in allocating the available resources.

The Permanent Performance Review Act would enable Congress to develop, in coordination with the executive branch, a better picture of the successes and failures among its myriad of programs and departments. Congress could then target more intelligently its resources so that the American taxpayer gets better performance from a reduced number of federally supported programs. Performance reviews would enable Congress to tackle more effectively both the Government's budget deficit and performance deficit.

This bill recognizes that real change will only take place when there is an institutionalized, permanent, and cooperative effort on the part of Congress, the Federal bureaucracy and the President to increase Government's efficiency and to build a framework that can be used to reduce and then eliminate our credit card spending. Whether under Presidents Kennedy, Carter, or Reagan, every recent drive to improve the efficiency of the Federal Government has failed because it was sabotaged by at least one of these three stakeholders who was never allowed to participate as a full partner at the decisionmaking table. It must be a team effort, able to draw upon the support of the American people's desire for smaller, more efficient government.

My bill would establish a permanent commission which would provide that participation for the Congress, the Federal bureaucracy, and the President. The Permanent Performance Review Commission would be appointed by both the President and congressional leaders. The Commission would be responsible for managing self-studies to be conducted over time by all the major Federal agencies. The Commission would hold hearings and consult with the appropriate congressional committee leaders in developing their final performance reviews and related legislative recommendations.

After receiving a performance review, the appropriate standing committee of the House would hold its own hearings and review all of the legislative recommendations of the Commission. These recommendations would become the basis for a bill that would be required to receive consideration on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, truly effective performance reviews would ensure that Congress can reform this Government so that it serves the best interests of all of our citizens. I thank those members of the Budget Committee who are

original cosponsors of this measure and urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

IN MEMORY OF S. SGT. BENJAMIN
L. GILLESPIE

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, serving in the U.S. Military is one of the most honorable and noble professions one could aspire to. It requires sacrifice, dedication, and commitment. Many of our Nation's finest men and women have served, and are serving in our Armed Services—keeping this Nation strong and free.

This service is not without risk or loss. I want to bring to our attention today that my State, and indeed, our Nation has lost an extraordinary young man while in service to his country. S. Sgt. Benjamin L. Gillespie, U.S. Army, of the 168th Armored Battalion, stationed at Fort Carson, CO, was killed in an unfortunate humvee accident on July 26 while conducting a training exercise.

Sergeant Gillespie was born April 20, 1965, to Ardell and Almon Dean Gillespie of North Salt Lake City, UT, and graduated from Woods Cross High School in 1983. He leaves behind his parents, as well as his beloved wife, Veronica, and son Brandt, as well as many other close family members in Utah, Arizona, and Tennessee.

He enlisted with the United States Army on September 15, 1983, and was stationed in Bamberg, Germany, with the 2/2 ACR where he worked with the East/West German border patrol. Later, he served at Fort Carson with the 27th Cavalry. Later, he served with the Salt Lake City Recruiting Battalion, stationed out of South Salt Lake from 1990-94, before returning to the duty which he loved, which was working directly with the troops with the 168th, again at Fort Carson. He earned many honors during his distinguished career, including two Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, the Gold Recruiter Badge with three Sapphire Achievement Stars, the Recruiter's Ring, the Order of the Cobra, and two Meritorious Service Medals.

He was well-beloved by everyone who knew him. His commanding officer stated that he was one of the finest young men and soldiers he had ever known. Clearly, Sergeant Gillespie was one of the best this country has to offer, and we all mourn that his time was cut short. It is my hope and prayer that the pain and sadness that his family feels at this time will eventually be replaced by the comfort and assurance that his service will not be forgotten, and the knowledge that he has now entered into the rest of the Lord in whom he had great faith.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers are with the family of Sergeant Gillespie; particularly his young wife and son. May they be blessed and watched over during this difficult time.

PERKINS COUNTY RURAL WATER
SYSTEM ACT OF 1996

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation to authorize two critically important rural water systems in South Dakota, the Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1996, and the Fall River Water Users District Rural Water System Act of 1996. Both bills are strongly supported by local project sponsors who have demonstrated that support by agreeing to substantial financial contributions from the local level.

Like many parts of South Dakota, these two counties have insufficient water supplies of reasonable quality available, and the water supplies that are available do not meet the minimum health and safety standards, thereby posing a threat to public health and safety.

In addition to improving the health of residents in the region, I strongly believe that these rural drinking water delivery projects will help to stabilize the rural economy in both regions. Water is a basic commodity and is essential if we are to foster rural development in many parts of rural South Dakota, including the Perkins County and Fall River County areas.

The Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1996 authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to construct a Perkins County Rural Water System providing service to approximately 2,500 people, including the communities of Lemmon and Bison, as well as rural residents. The Perkins County Rural Water System is located in northwestern South Dakota along the South Dakota/North Dakota border and it will be an extension of an existing rural water system in North Dakota, the southwest pipeline project. The State of South Dakota has worked closely with the State of North Dakota over the years on the Perkins County connection to the southwest pipeline project. A feasibility study completed in 1994 looked at several alternatives for a dependable water supply, and the connection to the southwest pipeline project is clearly the most feasible for the Perkins County area.

Past cycles of severe drought in the southeastern area of Fall River County have left local residents without a satisfactory water supply and during 1990, many home owners and ranchers were forced to haul water to sustain their water needs. Currently, many residents are either using bottled water for human consumption or they are using distillers due to the poor quality of the water supplies available. After conducting a feasibility study and preliminary engineering report, the best available, reliable, and safe rural and municipal water supply to serve the needs of the Fall River Water Users District consists of a Madison aquifer well, three separate water storage reservoirs, three pumping stations, and approximately 200 miles of pipeline. The legislation I am introducing today authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to construct a rural water system in Fall River County as described above. The Fall River system will serve rural residents, as well as the community of Oelrichs and the Angostura State Recreation Area.

Mr. Speaker, South Dakota is plagued by water of exceedingly poor quality, and the Perkins County and Fall River County rural water projects are efforts to help provide clean water—a commodity most of us take for granted—to the people of South Dakota. I am a strong believer in the Federal Government's role in rural water delivery, and I hope to continue to advance that agenda both in South Dakota and around the country. I urge my colleagues to support both of these important rural water bills, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Resources Committee to move forward on enactment as quickly as possible.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, those that have suggested that the use of pesticides by producers of our food supply is not environmentally sound have missed the most important environmental benefit of modern farming: It produces more food from fewer acres, so it leaves more land for nature.

The best possible agriculture for the environment would look amazingly like modern, high-yield technology supported farming. High-yield agriculture is the best available model—and the only proven success for a world that must triple its farm output over the next 45 years, and whose largest demonstrated environmental threat is loss of wildlife habitat.

Our environmentally ideal agriculture must use monocultures, potent new seed varieties, irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides to get high yields. It must do this because high yields are the most critical factor in preserving millions of square miles of wildlife habitat from being plowed down for lower yielding crops.

These technologies have more than doubled the yields on our farmlands. Since 1960, we have been able to get twice the amount of grain and oilseeds, and feed better diets to 80 percent more people on the same amount of land. If these new technologies had not taken place we would have lost 10 million square miles of habitat, about the land area of North and Central America combined.

Pesticide bans would cause yield reductions that would themselves lead to significant loss of wildlife habitat. Several studies have been conducted to ascertain the yield differences between farming with or without pesticides. According to a Department of Agriculture Economics study, production in crops would drop between 24 and 57 percent without pesticides. Farming without pesticides would cost us 20 to 30 square miles of wildlife by the time world population peaks in the year 2040.

Environmentally sensitive agriculture is one that uses the best possible use of our land—by technology supported fertilizer use and other high-yield methods which most efficiently produce our feed supply and hence protect wildlife species from habitat loss. Our goal must be to produce more food on fewer acres, leaving the rest to wildlife and for future generations to enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON FISH, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of one of the greatest Congressmen from New York State, Mr. Hamilton Fish, Jr., my friend and colleague with whom I had the pleasure of serving in Congress during my first term. Although we sat on opposite sides of the aisle, we shared many interests and common goals.

Congressman Fish, who was known for his ability to compromise, worked on some of the major legislation for the last half of the 20th century. He spearheaded legislation for his party which led to the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1988 and the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990. He was a principal sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, legislation that was denounced by President George Bush as a quota bill. Representative Fish also sponsored amendments to the Voting Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act.

Hamilton Fish's inspiration and leadership will be remembered. He was a tremendous decent man. His legacy to the United States has been legislation like the Americans With Disabilities Act which now allows people with disabilities to be treated equally and to have equal access to buildings, education, and employment.

I will miss him, and I will miss his decency—I believe all Americans will. Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to the family of this fine public servant.

JONES ACT REFORM

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today thousands of agricultural producers across America cannot sell their products to their own U.S. neighbors because they cannot secure waterborne transportation. My own farmers in Michigan can't sell their grain to livestock producers desperately needing feed in the South because there is no means of coastal transportation. American farmers and industry are forced to purchase foreign goods, rather than those produced in the U.S. because there is no means of transportation within the coastal U.S. for American products.

In all parts of the Nation, industry and farmers have watched business opportunities pass them by and go to foreign competitors because of lack of adequate transportation of U.S. goods to U.S. purchasers along our coastal waters. In effect the United States is subsidizing foreign farmers to the detriment of U.S. producers.

This system is contrary to the free-market system and the buy-American philosophy. That is why I am introducing reforms to our Federal maritime law, commonly known as the Jones Act to allow more free movement of agricultural commodities and other cargo within our domestic waters.

Currently the 1920 Jones Act, borne out of national security concerns, requires the trans-

port of goods within the United States be done on domestic carriers, with domestic crews, under domestic flags. My bill is designed to spur economic activity by increasing the means of transportation for agriculture and others goods within the United States and in turn boost the maritime industry which has suffered dramatically in the last 20 years.

My bill that I am introducing today would bring competition to ocean transportation and level the playing field between domestic and foreign carriers by allowing cargo to be carried on foreign ships, while requiring only U.S.-manned crews in compliance with immigration laws, and adherence by foreign carriers to all tax and regulations currently imposed on U.S. ships.

Reforming the Jones Act will strengthen the competitive position of American businesses and agricultural producers. Please lend your support to American industry by helping to promote trade and economic activity throughout the United States.

CORINTH GRANGE NO. 823
CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if there's one organization that has consistently been at the center of American society for generation upon generation, it is the Grange. From its inception in rural America, to the Grange Halls that span across middle America and towns of all sizes and backgrounds today, the Grange has remained the consummate centerpiece for community life.

Mr. Speaker, that is no easy task considering the times and changes we've seen over the course of this 20th century. And that's not to say that the Grange hasn't had to change along with it, because they have. How else can they remain a central part of so many communities? But thankfully, they have remained faithful to those core ideals and principles that have made them a central part of American life.

One such Hall I'd like to make particular note of today is from my congressional district in upstate New York. I'm talking about the Corinth Grange No. 823 who will be celebrating their 100th anniversary later this month. Over the course of 100 years, the Corinth Grange has remained a focal point for community camaraderie and a source of traditional ideals like community service and volunteerism. Mr. Speaker, to me, those are the two ideals to which I most credit the tremendous history and progress of this country. And Mr. Speaker, they have played no less significant role in the history of Corinth and Grange No. 823.

In fact, this fraternal organization is steeped in American history, so centrally tied to our Nation's roots and heritage it is impossible to separate one from the other. It is in places like Corinth, NY, where this rings true to this very day. Because of the work and activities of my fellow Grangers there, the ideals and values that have for so long comprised the American way of life survive today.

That's right, Mr. Speaker, my wife and I have belonged to the Grange for over 25