

This proposal is self-funding and would use the existing trust fund established in section 203(h) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. By providing a certification process to replace the FSIS system, the amendment would both reduce the risk that unacceptable equipment could be purchased and installed in processing plants and enhance exports of processing equipment.

Mr. President, I appreciate the support of the managers of the bill in adopting this amendment.

## AMENDMENT NO. 976

(Purpose: To require the United States Agency for International Development to use at least the same amount of funds made available under title II of Public Law 480 to carry out the orphan feeding program in Haiti during fiscal year 1998 as was used by the Agency to carry out the program during fiscal year 1997)

On page 53, line 3, before the period, insert the following: "Provided further, That, of the amount of funds made available under title II of said Act, the United States Agency for International Development should use at least the same amount of funds to carry out the orphan feeding program in Haiti during fiscal year 1998 as was used by the Agency to carry out the program during fiscal year 1997".

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, my amendment is simple and to the point. It urges the U.S. Agency for International Development to maintain the same level of resources for orphan feeding programs in Haiti in fiscal year 1998 as it provided in fiscal year 1997.

The total funding level for Public Law 480 title II food programs is projected to stay the same for fiscal year 1998 as was appropriated for fiscal year 1997. Therefore, I believe that keeping the same level of such resources for this particular program should not be contentious, especially when my colleagues understand who the beneficiaries of this program are.

Mr. President, many facilities in Haiti have to care for a truly vast number of orphans—and also for an increasing number of abandoned and neglected children. In the Port-au-Prince area alone, Christian Relief Services provides Public Law 480 title II food assistance to 70 orphanages. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency also supports some 46 orphanages in the southern rural areas. Simply stated, there are numerous orphanages throughout this country which take care of thousands upon thousands of orphaned and abandoned children.

I have traveled to Haiti four times in the last few years and have visited many orphanages. I can give you a first-hand account of some of their heart-breaking stories. The flow of desperate children into these orphanages is constant—and these institutions face an increasing challenge in accommodating all of these needy children.

Take the case of Notre Dame de Victoires, an orphanage run by Sister Veronique. She will not turn down a single child that is dropped off at her facility. She also makes frequent visits

to the local hospitals where babies, after being born, are abandoned. This particular orphanage takes care of the sickest of the sick. They get no means of support other than the food administered to them through CRS, which in turn receives its resources through AID.

Mr. President, let me make it clear what this amendment does. The current program guarantees one meal a day to these orphans. My amendment would ensure that these meals keep coming. I am not talking about medical assistance, clothing, or anything else. Just one meal. These orphanages still have to find sources of support for the other meals and other necessary assistance for these children.

According to AID, \$238,000 worth of food went indirectly to orphanages in fiscal year 1996. If this figure is accurate, this is less than 1 percent of the total food resources allocated by AID for Haiti. Specifically, in fiscal year 1996 only 506 metric tonnes of food—out of a total of 50,000 metric tonnes provided by AID—went toward feeding children in orphanages. This is just a drop in the bucket of AID resources.

Now, I have urged AID to maintain the current level of resources allocated for feeding orphans in fiscal year 1997 through fiscal year 1998. AID officials assured me that they will do just that. In fact, they spoke to the relevant relief agencies about the situation and confirmed that this could be done.

My original intent was to earmark this program, requiring AID to implement what has been promised. After numerous conversations between my staff and AID, and after their repeated assurances, the amendment I am offering states that AID simply should honor its commitment. This amendment would make AID's commitment not a personal assurance to me, but a commitment to the U.S. Senate. And if this language is kept in conference and signed into law, the commitment will be thus extended to the entire U.S. Congress.

Mr. President, I am not asking for any more money than the orphanages are currently receiving from AID. This is essential for the survival of many thousands of Haitian children living in overcrowded orphanages. I urge my colleagues to vote for this important amendment.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered and agreed to, en bloc, that statements of the Senators accompanying the amendments be printed in the RECORD, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendments (Nos. 973 through 976), en bloc, were agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, that concludes action on the Agriculture appropriations bill that is contemplated for this evening. Under the order that has been entered, there will be consid-

eration of specified amendments tomorrow morning, and then we will vote on passage of the bill.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COCHRAN. At the request of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, H.R. 1119, the House-passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act, includes several maritime provisions which are within the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Of particular interest are section 1021(b) and title XXXVI of that bill. The House National Security Committee, which has jurisdiction over certain maritime matters in that body, has chosen to attach these maritime authorizations to H.R. 1119 rather than include them in a separate bill. If the Senate amends and passes H.R. 1119, the Commerce Committee will not have the opportunity to consider those maritime provisions which are within its jurisdiction.

As both the chairman of the Commerce Committee and a member of the Armed Services Committee, I do not wish to either slow the progress we are making on the National Defense Authorization Act or relinquish the Commerce Committee's right to consider maritime authorizations under its jurisdiction. Therefore, I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss these provisions, and the process for addressing similar jurisdictional issues in the future, with Senator HOLLINGS, ranking member of the Commerce Committee; Senator HUTCHISON, chairman of the Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee; and Senator INOUE, ranking member of the Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee.

First, I would like to summarize the maritime authorization provisions of H.R. 1119. Section 1021(b) of the bill would amend title 46, United States Code, to facilitate the scrapping of excess National Defense Reserve Fleet [NDRF] vessels that contain hazardous materials and would amend the National Maritime Heritage Act to extend the authorization for this program an additional 2 years to 2001 to account for the delay in scrapping the NDRF vessels. Section 3601 of the bill would authorize appropriations for the Maritime Administration's expenses for operations and training and under the loan guarantee program authorized by title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, at the levels requested by the President for fiscal year 1998. Section 3602 would repeal the requirement for a