

1955 (2 U.S.C. 125), the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to pay, from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives—

(1) a gratuity to the widow of Detective John Michael Gibson of the United States Capitol Police in the amount of \$51,866.00; and

(2) a gratuity to the widow of Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police in the amount of \$47,280.00.

(b) TREATMENT AS GIFT.—Each gratuity paid under subsection (a) shall be held to have been a gift.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITOL POLICE MEMORIAL FUND.

It is the sense of Congress that there should be established under law a United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund for the surviving spouse and children of members of the United States Capitol Police who are slain in the line of duty.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H. CON. RES. 310 AND 311

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H. Con. Res. 310 and 311, the resolutions be deemed agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the Senators for their attention to these resolutions. I am pleased that we are going to have an appropriate memorial ceremony tomorrow to honor these two fallen policemen. They represent the very best of those that serve our country and work with us in the Senate, from our personal staffs, to the floor staff, to the officers of the Senate, to the policemen, the people throughout these Capitol buildings.

They certainly did their job last week, and the country and we owe them a personal debt of gratitude. As I said this morning when we opened the Chamber, we see them every day. And we get to know them personally. They are part of our family. And I have sensed today that every Senator and every person I have talked to has a sense of deep sympathy and sorrow for this event.

We will take every precaution to make sure that the Capitol is secure, but that it remains the people's body and the people have access to it. I also have asked Senator DASCHLE to join me in designating a Senator on both sides to make sure that in fact, the officers' families are appropriately cared for so that we can take a look at what benefits they are entitled to and what happens with their memorial fund. We will make a decision and we will report to the rest of the Senate about how to proceed in that area if there is a need for it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR FRIST

Mr. DASCHLE. I also note that we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Senator from Tennessee, Senator FRIST, for seizing the moment in his responsibility, first as a physician, and second as a Senator, to come on to the scene as he did. He served us and those victims very, very well on behalf of, I know, the entire Senate. We thank him for that.

I yield the floor.

IMPLEMENTING THE ONE-CALL LAW

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I want to advise my colleagues on the implementation of the one-call notification ("call-before-you-dig") law. This legislation, which was enacted into law as part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), has taken almost three Congresses to complete. However, this Congress was able to accomplish the goal, thanks to bipartisan support and lots of cooperation among the affected entities: pipeline, telecommunications, cable and electric utility companies, state one-call systems and numerous others of good will.

Last week the Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety announced a public meeting will be held on August 25-26. The purpose of this meeting is to begin organizing a process to collect information on the suggested "best practices" in one-call notification. All affected parties—underground facility operators, excavation contractors, railroads, one-call centers, states and municipalities—should participate in this meeting which will be a joint government-industry effort to bring together the best information on one-call notification practices, techniques, technologies and enforcement processes. Information on these best practices would then be shared among the various state one-call programs, in order to improve performance. The ink is barely dry on the law, and already implementation rule-making has begun. This is great because this is all about the public's safety.

This is enlightened federalism: the federal government working together with the states and the private sector to mutually decide how to protect our nation's vital underground infrastructure. The federal government does not dictate to state and local governments, nor does it try to fit private companies into some prescriptive regulatory scheme. That never works. Results come by working together.

I congratulate the Senate Appropriations Committee for including a modest but sufficient amount of support for implementing the one-call bill in the FY 1999 Transportation Appropriations bill. I hope the House appropriators will follow this lead and an agreement can be reached in conference for funding to be available in the coming fiscal year.

The one-call bill, which was enacted into law, provides that general revenues are to be used to improve our one-call systems. Realizing there is such a long list of beneficiaries from better one-call notification, this is only fair. I expect the appropriations process to reflect this principle of fairness and to fund this program from general revenues.

We have all seen the tragedies and near tragedies that can occur when accidents happen at underground facilities. These accidents are preventable, and this law provides the surest way to present these accidents. I urge all affected parties to join in participating in the August 25-26 meeting to begin the cooperative, responsible process envisioned in the one-call law.

Mr. President, I promised my good friend, former Senator Bill Bradley, when he left the Senate that his colleagues would continue the legislative effort to enact a one-call notification bill. This was accomplished this year. The terrible 1994 accident in Edison, New Jersey, showed Congress the kind of accident which must be prevented. Now a law has been enacted that can do the job. Let's continue to work together to carry it out.

PUERTO RICO STATUS LEGISLATION

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, 100 years ago this past Saturday—July 25, 1898—U.S. Major General Nelson Miles and his troops arrived on Puerto Rico's shores to liberate the island from tyranny. On that historic occasion, he declared that the United States came "bearing the banner of freedom . . . the fostering arm of a nation of free people, whose greatest power is in justice and humanity to all those living within its fold."

One hundred years after those valiant actions and eloquent words, the nearly four million people of Puerto Rico—excuse me, the United States citizens of Puerto Rico—continue to wait for the fulfillment of that promise of justice and humanity. For the last century, they have been denied the most fundamental right of a free people: the right to choose their own political destiny.

Mr. President, enough is enough. In the last 100 years, Puerto Ricans have fought for freedom as part of the U.S. armed forces. Through their vibrant culture and tireless spirit, they have made invaluable and lasting contributions to American democracy. But they have never had a real opportunity to exercise that freedom fully or enjoy the complete benefits of living in that democracy. Congress must right that wrong in 1998.

Make no mistake: Puerto Ricans are ready for this opportunity. In its quest to gain the right of political self-determination, Puerto Rico has on three occasions held local plebiscites to express preferences for the political options of statehood, independence, or commonwealth. But since these votes were not

sanctioned by Congress, they had little more than symbolic value.

In 1997 and 1998, the Puerto Rican Legislature passed resolutions asking Congress to provide Puerto Ricans with a real opportunity to determine their political future. But our loudest action on this request has been inaction.

It is high time that we move forward. The 105th Congress—and others before it—has held numerous hearings. The House of Representatives passed its version of Puerto Rico status legislation more than four months ago. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has thoroughly examined the many issues surrounding Puerto Rico's self-determination. We are fully educated. The only work that remains to be done are a committee mark-up and vote, Senate floor action, and a House-Senate Conference Committee.

Congressman CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Puerto Rico's non-voting member of Congress, told the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that

The unresolved dilemma of Puerto Rico's status is the single most important long term issue of concern to all Puerto Ricans. It permeates every aspect of our political and economic life and holds our future hostage.

Mr. President, the United States does not hold innocent hostages. It frees them, just as it did 100 years ago when General Miles and his troops waded ashore in Puerto Rico to rescue the residents of that beautiful island from tyranny.

In 1998, as the United States and Puerto Rico celebrate 100 years together, the U.S. Senate can decide to act as our colleagues in the House of Representatives have already done. I urge my colleagues not to make that decision by indecision. The 3.8 million United States citizens in Puerto Rico are counting on us to give new life to their long-frustrated dream of political self-determination. We must not let them down. One hundred years is far too long to wait.

REPORT OF A PROPOSED RESCISSION OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 148

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one proposed rescission of budgetary resources, totaling \$5.2 million.

The proposed rescission affects programs of the Department of the Interior.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 24, 1998.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:22 p.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. 4193. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 310. Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for memorial service for Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4059) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, and agrees to the concurring votes of the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. PACKARD, Mr. PORTER, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. PARKER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. OBEY, as the managers of the conference on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House of Representative, having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 1122) to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, the said bill passed, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4193. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-515. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLVE NO. 72

Whereas federal courts have ordered a state or political subdivision of a state to levy or increase taxes; and

Whereas such an order violates fundamental principles of separation of powers under which the legislative branch is charged with the enactment of laws; and

Whereas such an order, coming from a federal court, severely undermines the independence of each of the states; be it

Resolved by the Alaska State Legislature, That the Congress of the United States is requested to prepare and present to the legislatures of all the states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would prohibit a federal court from ordering a state or political subdivision of a state to increase or impose taxes in substantially the following language:

"Neither the Supreme Court nor any inferior court of the United States shall have the power to instruct or order a state or political subdivision thereof, or an official of such state or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes;" and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V, Constitution of the United States, and that the legislatures of all the states are invited to join with Alaska to secure ratification of the proposed amendment.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the governors and presiding officers of the houses of the legislatures of each of Alaska's sister states.

POM-516. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLVE NO. 65.

Whereas the University of Alaska is the oldest postsecondary school in the state and plays a vital role in educating Alaskans as well as students from around the world; and

Whereas the University of Alaska began as Alaska Agricultural and Mining College, a land grant college; and

Whereas the land grant system is one of the oldest and most respected forms of financing education in the United States; and

Whereas the land grant system provides grants of land to colleges and universities for facility location and, more importantly, provides a method for sustaining revenues to those colleges and universities; and

Whereas the University of Alaska received the smallest amount of land of any state that has a land grant college except Delaware; to date, the university has received only about 111,000 acres, less than one-third the acreage the university was originally promised; and

Whereas S. 660, sponsored by Senator Frank Murkowski, would grant to the University of Alaska 250,000 acres of federal land if the university agrees to relinquish to the federal government its extremely valuable inholdings in Denali National Park and Preserve and in other national parks, preserves, and refuges; and

Whereas S. 660 would grant to the University of Alaska an additional 250,000 acres of federal land if the states agrees to grant to the university 250,000 acres of state land; and

Whereas S. 660 will provide a stable revenue stream to the University of Alaska while protecting the state's unique parks, preserves, and refuges; and

Whereas reasonable amendments can be made to S. 600 relating to the transfer of federal lands in the Tongass National Forest