

rule, 30 minutes equally divided for each of these three amendments; Roth, reintroduce title VIII to bill, 5 minutes equally divided—

Mr. FORD. That has been taken care of.

Mr. McCAIN. That amendment would be removed.

Thompson, criminal penalties for airmen who fly without a certificate; Torricelli-Lautenberg, Quiet Communities Act, 1 hour equally divided; Torricelli, relevant; D'Amato-Moynihan, DOT issue 70 slot exemptions at JFK Airport, New York, 10 minutes equally divided; Lott-Frist-Moynihan amendment, limit eligible airport size for regional jet section, and Reagan National commuter slots, 10 minutes equally divided; Reed of Rhode Island, noise at Rhode Island airport, 15 minutes equally divided; Reed of Rhode Island, code-sharing notice, 15 minutes equally divided; Robb, Reagan National Airport, slots and perimeter rule, 1 hour equally divided; Warner, prohibit new Reagan National slots and perimeter rule exemptions until MWWA nominees confirmed by the Senate, 1 hour equally divided; Warner, notice, comment and hearings before proceeding with Reagan National slots and perimeter rule exemptions, 1 hour equally divided; Domenici amendment regarding Taos; D'Amato, travel agents, 20 minutes equally divided; Coats, Reagan National Airport slots; Daschle, relevant.

Mr. FORD. McCain-Ford managers' amendment.

Mr. McCAIN. I did that at the start.

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

Mr. McCAIN. Before I proceed further, I do want to say that although it looks like there are a lot of amendments, we are working out agreements on almost all of them. So I urge my colleagues to get with us tomorrow. We can work out these agreements and have two or three amendments and hopefully get this legislation passed today.

Before I proceed, I ask if the distinguished Senator from Kentucky has any remarks.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I have no disagreement with the unanimous consent proposal, particularly retaining the relevancy that is in effect now. There is only one question I might have. There is a Torricelli-Lautenberg Quiet Communities Act amendment that should be for both, I think. And just so long as that is understood that it is not two amendments; it is only one.

Mr. McCAIN. That is a Torricelli-Lautenberg amendment.

Mr. FORD. One amendment rather than two. If we could cut an amendment off now, we ought to do it instead of waiting until tomorrow. So I agree with my colleague, we have an opportunity to finish this bill tomorrow. And it is one of those "must-pass" bills. And I am very hopeful that we

can do it. We are here. Our staff is available. We are very amenable right now and probably more so tomorrow; but toward noon and a little after we may get intolerable. So let's hope we can do things early in the morning after our first vote.

I thank the Chair and thank my colleague.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, just for the record, I want to make it clear that these are first-degree amendments only.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The RECORD will so reflect.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SENATOR HAGEL'S 100TH PRESIDING HOUR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have the pleasure to announce that Senator CHUCK HAGEL is the latest recipient of the Senate's golden gavel award, marking his 100th hour of presiding over the U.S. Senate.

The golden gavel award has long served as a symbol of appreciation for the time that Senators contribute to presiding over the U.S. Senate—a privileged and important duty. Since the 1960's, Senators who preside for 100 hours have been recognized with this coveted award.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend our sincere appreciation to Senator HAGEL and his diligent staff for their efforts and commitment to presiding duties during the 105th Congress.

PREPARING FOR FUTURE BATTLEFIELDS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in June 1997, Senator GLENN, Senator LEVIN, and I requested the General Accounting Office (GAO) to examine the Department of Defense's (DOD) approach for addressing U.S. troop exposures to low levels of chemical warfare agents. That report is being released today. This kind of exposure, most recently experienced in the immediate aftermath of the Persian Gulf War—and possibly during it—is likely to become an ever greater threat, as more nations seek a battlefield advantage by employing the "poor man's bomb," chemical weapons. Our concern was to ensure that the Department of Defense had, in fact, learned the lessons of the Persian Gulf War and had taken effective steps to address any weaknesses that might result in the soldiers of future wars being needlessly harmed by exposure to low levels of chemical weapons. It is one thing to suffer cas-

ualties on the battlefield due to the misfortunes of war; it is quite another thing to inflict on American service men and women unnecessary wounds caused by a lack of foresight and planning. That is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, what the GAO discovered is that, as far as chemical weapons and chemical battlefields are concerned, the United States military is still in Cold War mode. DOD's focus in this area is still to enable U.S. forces to survive, fight, and win in the dreaded all-out nuclear, biological, and chemical battlefields of the Cold War. DOD has no strategy to address low-level exposures to chemical warfare agents. None. Nada. Zip. Despite the fact that existing DOD-conducted research indicates that low-level exposures to some chemical warfare agents may result in adverse short-term performance and long-term health effects, the Department of Defense has not stated a policy or developed doctrine on the protection of troops from low-level exposures to chemical warfare agents on the battlefield. Apparently, DOD prefers to concentrate on "winning," and hand off any chemical casualties to the Department of Veterans Affairs with a "no longer my business" attitude. I think we need to look at the bigger picture and give the safety of our military personnel the consideration they certainly deserve.

Even in the wake of disclosures by DOD that approximately 100,000 U.S. troops might have been exposed to some harmful level of chemical nerve and blister agents resulting from the destruction of a single Iraqi munitions dump, less than two percent of DOD's chemical and biological defense research and development program funds have been allocated to low-level chemical exposure issues in the two years since those disclosures. DOD claims that there is "no validated threat" of low-level chemical exposure to warrant greater effort, even as it continues to analyze other incidents during the Gulf War that may result in more troops being notified that they may have been exposed to low doses of chemical warfare agents. Moreover, the GAO report notes that DOD did a study just last year analyzing the impact of state sponsored terrorist attacks using low levels of chemical warfare agent to clandestinely disrupt U.S. military operations.

It seems both prudent and reasonable to at least begin the conceptual work to address the issue of low-level exposures to chemical warfare agents. But what GAO found instead was a few uncoordinated efforts by concerned offices to look into this current and future threat. This issue demands a top-down approach, in which the broad strategy or framework can guide the development of research, new technology, and operational practice to better defend American men and women, our sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, when they don the uniform of the United

States and defend our interests in the hardest and most courageous manner.

For this reason, and based upon the material which the GAO investigators had uncovered, I authored an amendment, which Senator GLENN cosponsored, to this year's Department of Defense Authorization bill to require the Secretary of Defense to review and modify chemical warfare defense policies and doctrine. The review calls upon DOD to address providing adequate protection from any low-level exposure, whether singly or in combination with other hazards, and whether to a single agent or to multiple agents and hazards over time. This amendment also requires the Secretary to address the reporting, coordinating, and retaining of information on possible exposures, including monitoring the health effects of those exposures by location, so that other mistakes of the Persian Gulf War are not extended to future battles. Additionally, this amendment calls upon the Secretary to develop and carry out a research program on the health effects of low-level exposures that can guide the Secretary in the evolution of policy and doctrine on low-level exposures to chemical warfare agents. I am very pleased that the amendment was retained in conference, and I look forward to the report on the review, which is due on May 1, 1999.

I am also pleased with the fine and useful work done by GAO on this report, particularly by Dr. Sushil Sharma and Mr. Jeffery Harris. I hope that the Department of Defense finds their analysis and their conclusions helpful as it begins the review mandated in the Department of Defense Authorization conference report. And finally, I thank Senator LEVIN and Senator GLENN for their interest in this matter.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 18

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending September 18, the U.S. imported 7,411,000 barrels of oil

each day, 1,115,000 barrels a day less than the 8,526,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

While this is one of the rare weeks when Americans imported slightly less foreign oil than the same week a year ago, Americans nonetheless relied on foreign oil for 54 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States imported about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

All Americans should ponder the economic calamity certain to occur in the U.S. if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.: now 7,411,000 barrels a day at a cost of approximately \$89,006,110 a day.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 22, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,515,818,621,727.95 (Five trillion, five hundred fifteen billion, eight hundred eighteen million, six hundred twenty-one thousand, seven hundred twenty-seven dollars and ninety-five cents).

One year ago, September 22, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,378,804,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-eight billion, eight hundred four million).

Five years ago, September 22, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,395,748,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred ninety-five billion, seven hundred forty-eight million).

Ten years ago, September 22, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,587,230,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred eighty-seven billion, two hundred thirty million).

Fifteen years ago, September 22, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,354,474,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred fifty-four billion, four hundred seventy-four million) which reflects a

debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,161,344,621,727.95 (Four trillion, one hundred sixty-one billion, three hundred forty-four million, six hundred twenty-one thousand, seven hundred twenty-seven dollars and ninety-five cents) during the past 15 years.

NOMINATION OF AMY ROSEN TO AMTRAK REFORM BOARD

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, earlier today, I called in a hold on the nomination of Amy Rosen to the Amtrak Reform Board. Consistent with my policy of publicly disclosing holds, I am including the following statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, stating my reasons for placing a hold on this nomination:

I am placing a hold on the nomination of Amy Rosen to the Amtrak Reform Board because of her role as an Amtrak Board member in voting to terminate Amtrak's Pioneer route. A subsequent GAO report indicates that at the time Ms. Rosen approved terminating the Pioneer, other Amtrak routes that were even less profitable than the Pioneer were kept in service. Before I will allow Ms. Rosen's nomination to move forward, I am seeking certain assurances from Ms. Rosen that if confirmed as a member of the Amtrak Reform Board, she will insist that Amtrak make decisions about passenger rail service on the basis of objective financial criteria.

Subsequent to calling in my hold on Ms. Rosen's nomination, I and my staff had conversations with her to discuss my concerns. During those conversations, I received assurances from Ms. Rosen that as an Amtrak Board member, she would insist that decisions about Amtrak routes and services would be made on the basis of objective financial criteria and that she would work with me and other Members of Congress to address the needs of rural communities for passenger rail service. As a result of these conversations, I am withdrawing my hold on Amy Rosen's nomination to the Amtrak Reform Board.

FOREIGN CURRENCY REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following report(s) of standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 1998

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Edward J. Barron:									
United States	Dollar				2,557.75				2,557.75
Switzerland	Franc	1,737.85	1,175.00						1,175.00
Bryan Edwardson:									
United States	Dollar				2,557.75				2,557.75
Switzerland	Franc	2,045.20	1,382.83						1,382.83
Terri Snow Markwart:									
United States	Dollar				2,557.75				2,557.75
Switzerland	Franc	1,767.70	1,195.20						1,195.20