

S. 3171. A bill to amend the impact aid program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve the delivery of payments under the program to local educational agencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to make the Impact Aid Program a Federal entitlement.

Over the past few years, the need for a change in the delivery of Impact Aid payments to eligible school districts has become increasingly clear. Impact Aid was originally designed to compensate a local school district for financial losses caused by a Federal presence in that district, whether due to a military base or to other designated Federal land in the community. Congress met its obligation and fully funded the program for the first twenty years of its existence. When the funding was cut in 1971, appropriations for Impact Aid were allocated for school districts according to a need-based formula. In subsequent years, multiple changes in the law have revised and further complicated both the formula and the additional factors that determine funding for each district. The result of these numerous revisions has been large payment disparities for the same types of students in different districts, as well as inherent flaws in reimbursements due to how school districts are defined in different states.

I have consistently defended increased appropriations for Impact Aid not only because it is a vital source of revenue for many local school districts, but also because it constitutes a clear-cut Federal responsibility. When the Federal Government's presence in a community detracts from the local tax base, which often comprises nearly 90 percent of local schools' funding, we must compensate for the lost funds. When we do not do so, the children suffer the consequences.

Despite increases in the past few years, Impact Aid remains substantially under-funded. We can no longer ignore the inequity this causes in educating our students. It is for this reason that I have introduced this bill today. When this legislation becomes law, Congress will be required to meet its obligation to the children and the schools that have been negatively impacted for so long. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our local schools by permanently fully funding the Impact Aid program.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 358—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE ON THEIR SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH, BUILD, AND MAINTAIN PEACE IN THEIR COUNTRY FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BIDEN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas, on October 4, 1992, having overcome the hardships of a colonial struggle, decolonization, and armed regional and national conflict, the people of Mozambique, the parties to the civil war in Mozambique, and the leadership of Mozambique reached a peaceful settlement to the devastating 16-year civil war;

Whereas this peace was facilitated by the good offices of the Comunita di Sant' Egidio in Rome and supported by regional friends and the international community;

Whereas in 1994 and 1999 Mozambique held multi-party elections deemed free and fair by the international community;

Whereas this peace has been consolidated and strengthened by Mozambique civil society, helping to keep the Government of Mozambique on a course of political and economic reforms despite the challenges currently presented by HIV/AIDS, floods, droughts, and regional instability;

Whereas the Government of Mozambique has initiated sound economic reforms, including the privatization of state-run enterprises, the reduction and simplification of import tariffs, and the liberalization of agricultural markets, resulting in extraordinary economic growth;

Whereas the resources that have become available by Mozambique's participation in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative have been responsibly channeled by the Government of Mozambique into anti-poverty programs;

Whereas, despite the progress that Mozambique has made, more than one-half of the people of Mozambique over 15 years of age are illiterate, twenty-eight percent of the children under five are malnourished, infant mortality stands at more than 12 percent, and life expectancy is only 42 years;

Whereas the United States values democratic principles, the rule of law, peace, and stability in all nations that comprise the community of states; and

Whereas Mozambique has been transformed from a war-torn country to one where political disputes are settled through peaceful means: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Mozambique on ten years of continued peace and growing democracy and commends the Government of Mozambique for continued economic and political reforms;

(2) salutes the Comunita di Sant' Egidio for using its good offices to facilitate and mediate the peace process that led to the October 4, 1992, agreement;

(3) recognizes the indispensable role that civil society in Mozambique has played in both achieving peace and deepening democratic reforms; and

(4) stands ready to assist the Government of Mozambique on a variety of programs, including humanitarian and development assistance, HIV/AIDS prevention, and technical assistance to fight corruption.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 158—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS NOT TO ALLOW THEIR GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TELEVISION STATIONS TO BROADCAST ANY PROGRAM THAT LENDS LEGITIMACY TO THE PROTOCOLS OF THE ELDERS OF ZION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Oregon) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 158

Whereas in November 2002, a number of government-controlled television stations in Egypt began broadcasting a multi-part series, "Horseman Without a Horse", based on the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and conspiracy myths about Jewish global domination;

Whereas the Protocols of the Elders of Zion are a notorious forgery, written by Russian anti-Semites in the early 20th century, which purport to reveal a plot for Jewish domination of the world;

Whereas the Protocols of the Elders of Zion have been a staple of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel propaganda for decades and have long since been discredited by all reputable scholars;

Whereas the broadcast of this series takes place in the context of a sustained pattern of vitriolic anti-Semitic commentary and depictions in the Egyptian government-sponsored press, which has gone unanswered by the Government of Egypt; and

Whereas the Department of State has urged Egypt and other Arab states not to broadcast this program, saying "We don't think government TV stations should be broadcasting programs that we consider racist and untrue": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns any publication or program that lends legitimacy to the Protocols of the Elders of Zion;

(2) believes the use of such heinous propaganda, especially in the Arab world, serves to incite popular sentiment against Jewish people and the State of Israel rather than promoting religious tolerance and preparing Arab populations for the prospect of peace with Israel;

(3) commends the Department of State for its denunciation of the "Horseman Without a Horse" television series and its efforts to discourage Arab states from broadcasting it; and

(4) urges the Government of Egypt and other Arab governments—

(A) not to allow their government-controlled television stations to broadcast this program or any other racist and untrue material; and

(B) to speak out against such incitement by vigorously and publicly condemning anti-Semitism as a form of bigotry.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4962. Mr. GRAMM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4902 proposed by Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska) to the amendment SA 4901 proposed by Mr. THOMPSON (for Mr. GRAMM (for himself, Mr. MILLER, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BARKLEY, and Mr. VOINOVICH)) to the bill

H.R. 5005, to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4963. Mr. GRAMM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4940 submitted by Mr. DODD and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 4901 proposed by Mr. THOMPSON (for Mr. GRAMM (for himself, Mr. MILLER, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BARKLEY, and Mr. VOINOVICH)) to the bill H.R. 5005, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4964. Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4962. Mr. GRAMM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4902 proposed by Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska) to the amendment SA 4901 proposed by Mr. THOMPSON (for Mr. GRAMM (for himself, Mr. MILLER, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BARKLEY and Mr. VOINOVICH)) to the bill H.R. 5005, to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all in the pending amendment No. 4902 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 1314 of the Thompson amendment is null and void, and shall have no effect.

SA 4963. Mr. GRAMM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4940 submitted by Mr. DODD and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 4901 proposed by Mr. THOMPSON (for Mr. GRAMM (for himself, Mr. MILLER, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BARKLEY and Mr. VOINOVICH)) to the bill H.R. 5005, to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all in the pending amendment No. 4940 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Thompson amendment is null and void, and shall have no effect.

SA 4964. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall use such sums as are necessary of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make emergency financial assistance authorized under this subsection available to producers on a farm that have

incurred qualifying crop losses for the 2001 or 2002 crop, or both, due to damaging weather or related condition, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall make assistance available under this subsection in the same manner as provided under section 815 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-387; 114 Stat. 1549A-55), including using the same loss thresholds for the quantity and quality losses as were used in administering that section.

(3) CROP INSURANCE.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall not discriminate against or penalize producers on a farm that have purchased crop insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

(b) LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation as are necessary to make and administer payments for livestock losses to producers for 2001 or 2002 losses, or both, in a county that has received a corresponding emergency designation by the President or the Secretary, of which an amount determined by the Secretary shall be made available for the American Indian livestock program under section 806 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-387; 114 Stat. 1549A-51).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall make assistance available under this section in the same manner as provided under section 806 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-387; 114 Stat. 1549A-51).

(c) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall—

(1) use such sums as are necessary to carry out this section; and

(2) transfer to section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), an amount equal to the amount of funds under section 32 of that Act that were made available before the date of enactment of this Act to provide disaster assistance to crop and livestock producers for losses suffered during 2001 and 2002, to remain available until expended.

(d) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this section.

(2) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of the regulations and administration of this section shall be made without regard to—

(A) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

(B) the Statement of Policy of the Secretary of Agriculture effective July 24, 1971 (36 Fed. Reg. 13804), relating to notices of proposed rulemaking and public participation in rulemaking; and

(C) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”).

(3) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall use the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The entire amount made available under this section shall be available only to the extent that the President submits to Congress an official budget request for a specific dollar amount that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and

Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.).

(2) DESIGNATION.—The entire amount made available under this subsection is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement under sections 251(b)(2)(A) and 252(e) of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A), 902(e)).

(f) BUDGETARY TREATMENT.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Committee of Conference accompanying Conference Report No. 105-217, the provisions of this section that would have been estimated by the Office of Management and Budget as changing direct spending or receipts under section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902) were included in an Act other than an appropriation Act shall be treated as direct spending or receipts legislation, as appropriate, under section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following calendar numbers: No. 1177 and No. 1179; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

Michael W. McConnell, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Kevin J. O'Connor, of Connecticut, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of four years.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is my high honor and privilege to speak on the confirmation of Professor Michael McConnell to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Professor McConnell is a Utahn, a scholar of the highest talent, and a man of profound integrity and judicial temperament.

Professor McConnell holds the prestigious Presidential Professorship at the University of Utah College of Law in Salt Lake City. He began his legal career at the University of Chicago Law School, where he was Comment Editor of the Law Review and graduated Order of the Coif. Thereafter he served as a law clerk for two of the leading liberal jurists of the 20th century: Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. and D.C. Court of Appeals Judge J. Skelly Wright.

After completing those clerkships, Mike became Assistant General Counsel of the Office of Management and Budget and then served as Assistant to the Solicitor General. He then joined