

meaning given such term in section 8331(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) With respect to Federal Employees' Retirement, the term "employee" shall have the meaning given such term in section 8401(11) of title 5, United States Code.

(C) With respect to life insurance, the term "employee" shall have the meaning given such term in section 8701(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(D) With respect to health insurance, the term "employee" shall have the meaning given such term in section 8901 of title 5, United States Code.

(E) With respect to compensation for work injuries, the term "employee" shall have the meaning given such term in section 8101(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(4) OBLIGATIONS.—The term "obligations" means any duties or responsibilities that would be incurred by the spouse of an employee.

SEC. 3. EXEMPTION FROM TAX FOR EMPLOYER-PROVIDED FRINGE BENEFITS TO DOMESTIC PARTNERS.

Section 106 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to contributions by employer to accident and health plans) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) TREATMENT OF DOMESTIC PARTNERS.—The provisions of section 2 of the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 1998 shall apply to employees and domestic partners of employees for purposes of this section and any other benefit which is not includible in the gross income of employees by reason of an express provision of this chapter.”.

SEC. 4. FUNDING.

It is the sense of Congress that any funds necessary for the implementation of this Act should be funded from reductions in unnecessary tax benefits available only to large corporations and individuals who are in the maximum tax bracket.●

INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the Senate reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the so-called “ISTEA II” bill that we’ve been debating for the past couple of weeks and that was approved yesterday. I thank the managers of the bill and their staff for the hard work and long hours they put in, as well as their attempts to face the very difficult task of balancing the transportation needs of the fifty states.

First, let me say that we all agree that maintaining, developing and improving our roads, bridges and transit systems is vital to our economy and our way of life. Transportation development has and will play a crucial role in the growth of this country. And the Senate reaffirmed that importance by approving significantly increased funding levels. That part of the equation, I strongly support. From the beginning, I believed we needed to do more and the Senate bill does do more, including an increase of approximately \$130 million for Wisconsin highways and significant increases for transit systems as well.

That said, the other part of the equation, and the reason for which I ultimately opposed the legislation, is the issue of percentage share of total pro-

gram dollars. My state of Wisconsin is one of the 20 or so donor states whose taxpayers pay more in gas tax revenues than they receive in Federal transportation funds. And one of the top issues that Wisconsinites from all across the state and from all walks of life stressed to me was the need to improve Wisconsin's share. That was certainly not the only issue, nonetheless, it is a very basic issue of fairness that we have faced every time we have sat down to write a highway bill.

And this year, perhaps more than any other, we had an historic chance to correct the donor state problem since the bill includes significant new resources. However, while this bill improves many states' shares, it actually decreases Wisconsin's share. Under the original ISTEA, my state realized an average return of 92 percent on our gas tax contributions over the life of bill. Under the Senate bill, Wisconsin would only be guaranteed a 91 percent return. Because this bill is more generous overall, Wisconsin's overall funding will go up, but on the share side, we are worse off under this bill than when we started.

Mr. President, I am pleased that additional transportation resources will be available to my state. I am also pleased that this bill maintains the principle of a strong Federal partnership, balances resources between the many different modes of transportation and continues important environmental programs. However, in the end, I felt that a vote in favor of this bill was a vote to continue an unfair system for another six years. The taxpayers of Wisconsin deserve better.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HINDU NEW YEAR

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir as it celebrates the Hindu New Year. The New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir was incorporated to serve the religious, educational, and cultural needs of the Arya and Hindu immigrant population in New Jersey, demonstrating my state's rich and diverse heritage.

My colleagues may know that the Hindu New Year, called Holi, occurs at the advent of spring and is a time when Hindus focus on the joys of the new season and the passing of the cold, harsh winter. The day also marks a time to emphasize reconciliation, forgiveness, unity, and tolerance. I am glad to be able to contribute to this celebration as New Jersey's Arya and Hindu population gathers with family and friends to mark the coming of spring and another New Year.

Hindus in our country have contributed a great deal to America's heritage. The strength of our country is built upon the melding of its many languages, customs, and traditions, including those of the Hindu community. Our diversity is a strength. It is important that we celebrate the contribution

that Hindu Americans have made to American society.●

MICHIGAN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT BIDS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge a great athletic achievement in the state of Michigan. On this past Sunday evening, the NCAA selection committee announced the 64 best college teams in America to go head-to-head in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Among this field of 64, five teams from the state of Michigan are included in the “March Madness” frenzy, making Michigan the most represented state in the tournament. These teams are Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, University of Detroit Mercy, University of Michigan and Western Michigan University. This is first time in Michigan history that five teams from the state have been in the NCAA tournament at the same time.

In their wisdom, the selection committee recognized that there are many excellent basketball programs and extraordinary talent within the state of Michigan. Not only have the two traditional Michigan powerhouse teams, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, proven that they are among the nation's elite teams, but some smaller basketball programs have also made their mark on this season by winning some key games and finishing strong within their respective conferences.

Michigan State University ended an impressive season by tying with the University of Illinois for the Big Ten regular Season title, while the University of Michigan finished an equally impressive season by winning the first ever Big Ten Conference tournament. Both of these teams are highly seeded within their respective regions. Western Michigan finished tied for first place in the Mid-American Conference and received an at-large NCAA bid, which is their second ever NCAA berth. Eastern Michigan finished strong by winning the Mid-American Conference tournament and was pitted against Michigan State in the first round of the tournament. The University of Detroit Mercy was the Mid-Western Collegiate Conference regular season champion and also received an at-large bid to the tournament.

I am looking forward to the next few weeks to see who will be crowned NCAA National Champion. While these great teams from Michigan fight it out to see who will be crowned National Champion, one thing remains clear: this has been a great year for Michigan basketball and I dare to say, the best has yet to come. Go Michiganders!!!●

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until 2 p.m. today

for the introduction of bills and statements.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 541, 542, 543, 544, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Winter D. Horton, Jr., of Utah, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2002.

Christy Carpenter, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2002.

COAST GUARD

The following-named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Joseph J. McClelland, Jr., 0000

Rear Adm. (1h) John L. Parker, 0000

Rear Adm. (1h) Paul J. Pluta, 0000

Rear Adm. (1h) Thad W. Allen, 0000

The following-named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. David S. Belz, 0000

Capt. James S. Carmichael, 0000

Capt. Roy J. Casto, 0000

Capt. James A. Kinghorn, 0000

Capt. Erroll M. Brown, 0000

IN THE COAST GUARD, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Coast Guard nominations beginning Cdr. Claudio R. Azzaro, and ending Cdr. Jerry J. Saulter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of November 6, 1997

Coast Guard nominations beginning Stephen W. Rochon, and ending Louis M. Farrell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 29, 1998

Coast Guard nomination of Robert L. Clarke, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 29, 1998

Coast Guard nomination of Kerstin B. Rhinehart, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 29, 1998

Coast Guard nomination of Maury M. Mcfadden, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 29, 1998

Coast Guard nominations beginning William J. Shelton, and ending Keith O. Pelletier, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 3, 1998

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nominations beginning James A. Illg, and ending Jennifer D. Garte which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 3, 1998

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATION OF FREDERICA A. MASSIAH-JACKSON

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that following the tentatively scheduled 5:30 p.m. rollcall vote or votes on Monday, March 16, Senator SPECTER be recognized to speak in support of the Massiah-Jackson nomination. I further ask unanimous consent that at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, the Senate resume the nomination and there be 2 additional hours under the control of Senator SPECTER, with 1 hour 15 minutes under the control of Senator HATCH or his designee, and the vote occur on or in relation to the nomination at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 1998, notwithstanding rule XXII.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1998

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until 11 a.m. on Monday, March 16, and immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate begin a period for the transaction of morning business until 12 noon, with the time equally divided between the majority leader and Senator BAUCUS.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. COVERDELL. At the hour of 12 noon on Monday, the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Frederica Massiah-Jackson to be a U.S. district judge, under a previous order.

On Monday, during the day, there will be up to 6 hours for debate on her nomination, with additional time on Monday night and Tuesday morning. The vote in relation to her nomination will occur at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17.

It is my hope that the Senate can clear for consideration on Monday a resolution relative to Kosovo, with a

rollcall vote occurring at approximately 5:30 p.m. Also, the Senate could consider Executive Calendar nominations, resulting in an additional rollcall vote on Monday.

On Tuesday, March 17, the Senate will debate the Massiah-Jackson nomination in the morning and conduct a rollcall vote on the cloture motion relative to the motion to proceed on the education "A+" bill at 12:15 p.m. Following our traditional recess for the party caucuses on Tuesday at 2:15 p.m., the Senate will conduct a rollcall vote relative to the Massiah-Jackson nomination.

Therefore, one or more votes will occur on Monday at approximately 5:30 p.m., and during the day on Monday the Senate will debate the U.S. district judge nomination. On Tuesday morning, the Senate will continue the debate on the nomination and will suspend that debate at 12:15 p.m. to conduct a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the education "A+" bill. The vote relative to the nomination will occur at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday. Therefore, the Senate will begin voting approximately 5:30 p.m. on Monday and has two scheduled votes on Tuesday, one at 12:15 p.m. and one at 2:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M., MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1998

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:18 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 16, 1998, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 13, 1998:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

VIVIAN LOWERY DERRYCK, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE JOHN F. HICKS, SR.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

G. EDWARD DESEVE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE JOHN A. KOSKINEN.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAMES K. ROBINSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JO ANN HARRIS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MAHLON APGAR IV, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE ROBERT M. WALKER.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. CARLTON W. FULFORD, JR., 0000.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED AND AS A PERMANENT PROFESSOR, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY, UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

To be colonel

RITA A. CAMPBELL, 0000.