

By the summer of 1933, the CCC had more than 300,000 young men, ages 18 to 24, in camps across the country prepared to embark on what would be the largest public works and job creation project this country has ever known. In a radio address that summer, President Roosevelt called on the CCC to be the vanguard of the new spirit of the American future—a spirit of responsibility and opportunity.

My father was one of the young men who heard that call. A year later, in the summer of 1934, my father was a "CCC boy" based in a Clayton County camp as a truck driver, running supplies to camps in North Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. The CCC boys earned \$30 per month running supplies like my father, planting trees, building roads and trails, making dams and walls and shelters.

Roosevelt's Corps was dedicated to several purposes. First, FDR created the CCC to relieve the massive unemployment problem our nation was facing. Second, FDR recognized the real work the CCC could do—rebuilding the country's depleted resources of forest and soil—would be at least as vital a purpose as job creation.

The third objective of the CCC, whose significance has perhaps become even more apparent as years have passed, was generally envisioned by FDR in his 1933 message to Congress:

More important, however, than material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work. We can take a vast army of the unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability.

In other words, in a nearly inadvertent way, the CCC had the effect of not only rebuilding roads, trees and dams, but also of rebuilding men. While the challenges our country faces today are vastly different than those of 1933, and the makeup of our corps of volunteers has become much more diverse than the young "CCC boys," the spirit of national service remains strong.

For example, the work of the more than 40,000 citizens now serving as part of the Corporation for National Service's AmeriCorps program is powerful proof that national service is as important now as it was for my father's generation.

A group of Georgians who recognize FDR's legacy of hope, opportunity and spirit of service are working to erect a statue honoring the Civilian Conservation Corps in Warm Springs, GA. How appropriate such a recognition would be. Roosevelt's CCC is an important piece of our nation's and our state's history, and something that should serve as an example for generations to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY BETTERMENT COMMITTEE OF MT. VERNON, MISSOURI

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous

accomplishment by the Community Betterment Committee of Mt. Vernon, Missouri. On April 23, 1998, a project that began almost 2½ years ago will be dedicated at a lighting ceremony. Lighting the Lawrence County Courthouse, once just a dream to many citizens, has now become a reality.

Through the perseverance of the Community Betterment Committee, private funds were raised to complete the project. The hard work put forth by the Mt. Vernon Community is impressive. Because of these efforts the Lawrence County Courthouse, for years to come, will be lit at night for people to enjoy.

I congratulate the Community Betterment Committee for their outstanding achievement. Additionally, I commend the Mt. Vernon community for their generosity, without which, none of this would have been possible. I wish them continued success in all future endeavors.●

#### THE TEXAS/MAINE/VERMONT COMPACT

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the Senate has just passed H.R. 629, legislation granting congressional consent to the Texas/Maine/Vermont Compact. I have often been asked why I—a senator from Minnesota—should have such a deep and abiding interest in this legislation, which appears to involve only those three states. Until this week, I had not agreed to a time limit for debate, and this held up consideration of the bill for more than year. I think I owe it to my colleagues to explain why I was insisting on a full and thorough debate, and why I think this discussion is so important.

What has troubled me from the very beginning is that this legislation would result in the dumping of low-level radioactive waste in a small, poor, majority-Latino community in rural West Texas—a town called Sierra Blanca. In this respect, the Texas/Maine/Vermont Compact is different from other Compacts the Senate has considered. We know beforehand where this waste will be dumped. The Texas legislation in 1991 identified the area where the dump will be located. The Texas Waste Authority designated the site near Sierra Blanca in 1992. A draft license was issued in 1996.

Whether we like it or not, this knowledge makes us responsible for what happens to Sierra Blanca. I'll be the first to acknowledge that this is a terrible responsibility. The fate of the people who live there ultimately rests in our hands. Their livelihoods, their community, their property, their health, their safety, and in many respects their lives, all depend on how we choose to proceed on this bill.

I believe very strongly that the Compact raises important and troubling issues of what has variously been described as "environmental justice," "environmental equity," "environmental discrimination," or "environ-

mental racism." And a diverse array of civic organizations agree with me about this. The Texas NAACP, The Sierra Club, the League of United Latin American Citizens (or "LULAC"), Greenpeace, the Bishop and the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, the House Hispanic Caucus, Friends of the Earth, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, to name just a few.

As a very basic proposition, I think we can all agree that it's wrong for poor, politically powerless, minority communities to be singled out for the siting of unwanted hazardous waste dumps. It's wrong when that happens in Sierra Blanca, and it's wrong when it happens in hundreds of other poor minority communities all across this country. I want to do whatever I can to stop it, and I don't see why every one of us should not want to do the same. I don't understand why it should be considered unusual for a senator to care about these things. On the contrary, I think it should be unusual for a senator not to care about these things.

Let me tell you something about Sierra Blanca. It's a small town in one of the poorest parts of Texas, an area with one of the highest percentages of Latino residents. The average income of people who live there is less than \$8,000. Thirty-nine percent live below the poverty line. Over 66 percent are Latino, and many of them speak only Spanish. It's a town that has already been saddled with one of the largest sewage sludge projects in the world. Every week Sierra Blanca receives 250 tons of partially treated sewage sludge from across country. And depending on what action Congress decides to take, this small town with minimal political clout may also become the national repository for low-level radioactive waste.

Supporters of the Compact would have us believe that the designation of Sierra Blanca had nothing to do with the income or ethnic characteristics of its residents. That it had nothing to do with the high percentage of Latinos in Sierra Blanca and the surrounding Hudspeth County—at least 2.6 times higher than the state average. That the percentage of people living in poverty—at least 2.1 times higher than the state average—was completely irrelevant. They would have us believe that Sierra Blanca was simply the unfortunate finalist in a rigorous and deliberate screening process that fairly considered potential sites from all over the state. That the outcome was based on science and objective criteria. I don't believe any of this is true.

Let me be clear. I'm not saying science played no role whatsoever in the process. It did. Indeed, based on the initial criteria coupled with the scientific findings, Sierra Blanca was disqualified as a potential dump site. It wasn't until politics entered the picture that Sierra Blanca was even considered.

I think it's worth taking a moment to review how we get to where we are

today. The selection criteria for the dump were established in 1981, and the Texas Waste Authority hired engineering consultants to screen the entire state for suitable sites. In March 1985, consultants Dames & Moore delivered their report to the Authority. Using "exclusionary" criteria established by the Authority, Dames & Moore ruled out Sierra Blanca and the surrounding area, due primarily to its complex geology.

Let me quote from that report. Features "applied as exclusionary as related to the Authority's Siting Criteria" included "the clearly exclusionary features of: complex geology; tectonic fault zones," et cetera. "The application of exclusionary geological criteria has had a substantial impact" in screening potential sites, the report observed. In its final composite, the report explained, "Complex geology and mountainous areas in West, West-Central, and the Panhandle of Texas were excluded," including the Sierra Blanca dump site. The report also found, "Many tectonic faults occur in West Texas within massive blocks of mountain ranges. This area includes El Paso [and] Hudspeth" counties "and has undergone several phases or episodes of tectonic disturbances." Finally, it went on to observe that, "Although not excluded, the remainder of Hudspeth County does not appear to offer good siting potential."

So much for the science. Repeatedly since the early 1980s, the Waste Authority has come back again and again to this politically powerless area. It has designated four potential sites in all, and—with one revealing exception—all of them were in Hudspeth County. There are only three communities in the entire County, all of them poor and heavily Latino, and all of them targeted by the Authority.

The one exception to the pattern was in 1985, after completion of the engineering consultants' report, Dames & Moore concluded that the "best" sites were in McMullen and Dimmit Counties, and the Waste Authority settled on a site in McMullen County. But this decision met with fierce opposition. Politically influential individuals demanded that the Authority move the dump to Hudspeth County.

At this point any pretense of objectivity was abandoned. The selection criteria were changed in 1985 so as to rule out the two "best" sites identified by Dames & Moore. The new criteria gave preference to sites located on state-owned land. This change had the effect of virtually guaranteeing selection of a site somewhere in Hudspeth County, large portions of which are owned by the state of Texas.

So the Waste Authority proceeded to designate, based on an informal and cursory process, five sites in Hudspeth County. Its clear choice, however, was Fort Hancock, one of the County's three poor Latino communities. Unfortunately for the Authority, the more politically powerful city of El Paso

next door decided to fight back. Together with Hudspeth County, El Paso filed suit against the site selection. They argued that the Fort Hancock site was located in an area of complex geology—like Sierra Blanca, incidentally—and lay on a 100-year flood plain. The amazing thing is that they won. In 1991 U.S. District Court Judge Moody ruled in their favor and ordered that no dump could be built in Fort Hancock, Hudspeth County.

But the County's court victory was short-lived. The Waste Authority was clearly not about to give up. The Authority went back to the state legislature to get around Judge Moody's decision by once again changing the rules. A legislator from Houston, far to the East where the big utilities are based, proposed a bill that ignored all previous selection criteria and designated Fort Hancock once and for all. Interestingly enough, this maneuver aroused a great deal of public indignation, precisely because of the Authority's perceived discriminatory practice of dumping on Latino communities.

There was an impressive show of force against discrimination, but the outcome was not exactly what Hudspeth County had in mind. After Judge Moody's remarkable decision, lawyers for El Paso and the Waste Authority worked out a compromise. Fort Hancock would be saved, but a 400 square mile area further north in Hudspeth County would take its place. This oblong rectangle imposed on the map—an area that included Sierra Blanca—was subsequently dubbed "The Box." The Texas legislature passed the so-called "Box Law" by voice vote only days before the end of session in May 1991.

Once again, the previous site selection procedures were stripped away. The Box Law repealed the requirement that the dump had to be on public land, the very requirement that had pointed the Authority towards Hudspeth County in the first place. This was necessary because, at that time, the Sierra Blanca site was not public land at all. Most importantly, to prevent another troublesome lawsuit like the Fort Hancock debacle, the Box Law essentially stripped local citizens of the right to sue. It denied them all judicial relief other than an injunction by the Texas Supreme Court itself, and for this unlikely prospect citizens would be required to drive 500 miles to Austin.

This story is depressingly familiar. A similar scenario unfolds over and over again in different parts of the country, with different names and faces in every case. Sometimes there is no intention by anyone to discriminate. But pervasive inequalities of race, income, and access to the levers of political power exercise a controlling influence over the siting of undesirable waste dumps. The people who make these decisions sometimes are only following the path of least resistance, but in far too many instances the result is a targeting of

poor, politically marginalized minority communities who lack the political muscle to do anything about it.

The remarkable thing about this story is that some people in Hudspeth County did fight back. Dell City fought back and won in the early 1980s. Fort Hancock fought back and won their court case in 1991. And make no mistake, the people of Sierra Blanca are fighting back, too. Many of them have been here on the Hill. Father Ralph Solis, the parish priest for Sierra Blanca and Hudspeth County, was here in February, and his delegation may have visited your office. These people know that the odds are stacked against them, but they are persevering just the same.

One of the amendments I included in this bill is intended to give them a fighting chance. It gives them their day in court—the right to challenge this site selection on grounds of environmental justice. It says that the Compact cannot be implemented in any way—and that would include the siting process, the licensing process, or the shipment of waste to the site—that discriminates against communities because of their race, national origin, or income level. If local residents can prove discrimination in court, then they can stop the Compact Commission from operating the dump. They don't have to prove intent, by the way, although that certainly would be sufficient. All they have to show is disparate treatment or disparate impact.

I know some of my colleagues don't believe issues of environmental justice are implicated here. Or they may think this is not a question for the Senate to decide. I believe this amendment meets the concerns of those colleagues. All my amendment does is give local residents the right to make their case in court. There is no guarantee they will win. After all, it is extremely difficult to prove environmental discrimination. But I'm glad this amendment has been accepted as part of H.R. 629, and I certainly will insist that it be included in any final legislation passed by this body. I do not see how anyone would want to deny these people a chance to make their case.

Short of defeating the bill outright, I believe passing this amendment is the only way for us to do right by the people of Sierra Blanca. Yet, as amazing as it sounds, Compact proponents also claim to have the best interests of Sierra Blanca at heart. They claim the Compact will protect local residents because it keeps out waste from states other than Maine and Vermont. They have used this argument again and again, in Sierra Blanca, in the Texas legislature, in the House of Representatives, and they're using it again in the United States Senate. But this argument makes no sense. The dump does not have to be built, it is indeed unlikely to be built without congressional consent to this Compact, and the Compact would not protect Sierra Blanca in any event.

The point that keeps getting lost here is there's no compelling reason why the Sierra Blanca dump must be built. Some of you might have seen the headline in the New York Times on December 7 of last year: "Warning of Excess Capacity in Nation's Nuclear Dumps—New Technology and Recycling Sharply Reduce the Volume of Nuclear Waste." The article discusses a study by Dr. Gregory Hayden, the Nebraska Commissioner for the Central Interstate Compact Commission. Dr. Hayden found that "there is currently an excess capacity for low-level radioactive waste disposal in the US without any change to current law or practice." He went on to explain, "These disposal sites have had low utilization due to falling volumes since 1980. Thus, a high capacity remains for the future, without any change to the current configuration of which states may ship to which disposal site." Let me repeat the essential point: there is no compelling need for any new low-level radioactive waste dumps in this country. And if no new dump is built, nobody can argue that the compact is needed to protect Sierra Blanca.

The most popular argument for building another dump involves disposal of medical waste. I'm sure all of you have heard it. It's claimed that waste from medical facilities and research labs is getting backed up—that it has to go somewhere. But let me emphasize one central and indisputable fact: over the last few years, over 99 percent of the waste from Maine and Vermont has come from nuclear reactors. Less than one percent has been from hospitals and universities. And from all three states, 94 percent of the low-level waste between 1991 and 1994 came from reactors. This dump is being built—first and foremost—to dispose of radioactive waste from nuclear reactors, not from hospitals.

So why are the nuclear utilities hiding behind hospitals and universities? It's not very hard to figure out. In 1984 the Texas Waste Authority hired a public relations firm to increase the popularity of nuclear waste. The PR firm recommended, "A more positive view of safe disposal technologies should be engendered by the use of medical doctors and university faculty scientists as public spokesmen for the [Texas Waste] Authority." "Whenever possible," the report said, "the Authority should speak through these parties." Well, that advice has been followed to the letter. We all have sympathies for hospital work and university research. I know I do. But we cannot let those sympathies blind us to the existing excess capacity for disposal of low-level waste.

Not only has there been no convincing demonstration of need for this dump, but odds are no dump will be built if the Compact fails. Let me quote from an article from the Texas Observer of last March: "Texas generates nowhere near enough waste on its own to fill a three-million cubic

feet dump, and by its own projections [the Texas Waste Authority] could not survive without Maine and Vermont's waste." Moreover, there are indications the Texas legislature will not appropriate funding to build the dump if Congress rejects this Compact. Texas lawmakers refused the Waste Authority's request for \$37 million for construction money in FY 1998 and FY 1999. In fact, the Texas House initially zeroed out all funding for the Authority, but funding for licensing was later restored in conference committee. My understanding is that construction funding was made contingent on passage of the Compact, whereupon Maine and Vermont will each be required to pay Texas over \$25 million.

Supporters of the Compact are trying to have it both ways. When challenged about the environmental justice of targeting Sierra Blanca, they respond that no site has been selected, and environmental justice can only be addressed if and when that ever happens. Then in the same breath they insist that the dump in Sierra Blanca is definitely going forward and the Compact is therefore necessary to protect local residents from outside waste. So which is it? Either the Sierra Blanca dump is a done deal or it's not. The truth is, the most likely scenario is that the dump will be built in Sierra Blanca if Congress approves this Compact, subject to any legal challenges, but the project will not go forward if the Compact is rejected.

Even if the dump is built, however, the Compact does not protect Sierra Blanca. The Compact Commission would be able to accept low-level radioactive waste from any person, state, regional body, or group of states. All it would take is a majority vote of the Commissioners, who are appointed by the Compact state governors. Why should the people of Sierra Blanca expect unelected commissioners to keep waste out of their community? Is there anything in their recent experience that would justify such faith?

The fact is, the state will have every economic incentive to bring in more waste. The November 1997 report by Dr. Hayden concluded that "the small volume of waste available for any new site would not allow the facility to take advantage of economies of scale. Thus, it would not even be able to operate at the low-cost portion of its own cost functions." The new dump will need high volume to stay profitable. The Texas Observer reports, "A 1994 analysis by the Houston Business Journal suggests that the Authority would open the facility to other states to keep it viable."

We have here the potential for establishing a new national repository for low-level nuclear waste. Not only will Texas have an incentive to bring in as much waste as possible, but the same will be true of nuclear utilities. The more waste goes to Sierra Blanca, the less they will be charged for disposal. Rick Jacobi, General Manager of the

Texas Waste Authority, told the Houston Business Journal: "The site is designed for 100,000 cubic feet per year, which would be about \$160 per cubic foot. But if only 60,000 cubic feet per year of waste arrives, the price would be \$250 per cubic foot." That's a big difference. As Molly Ivins says, "That sure would drive up costs for Houston Lighting and Power and Texas Utilities." And the going rate at one existing dump is a whopping \$450 per cubic foot. In the end, it will be in the economic interest of everyone—from the nuclear utilities to the Waste Authority—to ship as much waste to Sierra Blanca as they can.

My second amendment addresses this problem. Throughout the process of approving the Compact, supporters claimed the waste would be limited to three states. I want to hold them to that promise. My amendment puts that promise in writing. I doubt anyone would disagree that this understanding was shared by everyone who participated in the Compact debate. If Compact supporters truly plan to limit waste to three states, which has been everyone's understanding all along, they can have no objection to my amendment. It's nothing but a protection clause. A nearly identical amendment—called the Doggett Amendment—was attached to the bill passed by the House. I am pleased that the Senate has accepted my amendment, but I will insist that it be included in any final legislation passed by this Congress.

There are other issues I will not be able to address with amendments. I think there is a fundamental concern about whether this kind of disposal is safe at all. The League of Conservation Voters warns that, despite the hazards involved, waste will be buried in soil trenches destined to leak, as have nuclear dumps in Kentucky, Illinois, and Nevada. LCV did score the House vote on final passage, and has announced that it may score Senate votes as well.

There is also an obvious concern about the unsuitability of Sierra Blanca's geology—the exclusionary criterion from the 1985 Dames & Moore report. Sierra Blanca is situated right in the middle of the state's only earthquake zone. Its 1993 license application stated that this is "the most tectonically active area within the state of Texas." In April 1995 there was a 5.6 earthquake 100 miles away, in Alpine, Texas. And there have been two tremors in the area in the last four years.

The concern about the environmental impact of this dump extends well beyond the border. The Mexican equivalent of the EPA announced its opposition on March 5 on grounds that the Sierra Blanca dump poses an environmental risk to the border region. On February 11, the Mexican Congress, represented by its Permanent Commission, declared "that the project in Sierra Blanca in Texas, and all such dumping projects along the border with

Mexico, constitute an aggression against national dignity." Moreover, the project apparently violates the 1983 La Paz Agreement between Mexico and the U.S., which commits both countries to prevent pollution affecting the border area.

My paramount concern, however, and the reason I have resisted a time agreement on this bill, was that I could not stand by and watch while a poor, politically powerless, Latino community was targeted to become the premier repository of low-level nuclear waste for the entire country. Much less give it my blessing. Not when I have the power to do something about it. At the very least, the amendments I included in this bill will keep Sierra Blanca from becoming a national dump, and will give local residents their day in court to seek elusive relief from environmental discrimination.

I hope my amendments accomplish something more than that, as well. I hope they keep alive the spirit of community this controversy has ignited. The newspaper columnist Molly Ivins has written that "this is community action and local organizing at its very best." I couldn't agree more. We have to maintain grass-roots pressure on the House or the conference committee, as case may be, to keep these amendments in the bill. And I hope the residents of Sierra Blanca will continue this struggle in every forum possible. I do believe they have right on their side, and I am still naive enough to hope and believe that right can beat might, and that justice can prevail against the odds.●

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

● Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, April 2, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,540,086,164,177.98 (Five trillion, five hundred forty billion, eighty-six million, one hundred sixty-four thousand, one hundred seventy-seven dollars and ninety-eight cents).

One year ago, April 2, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,376,710,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-six billion, seven hundred ten million).

Five years ago, April 2, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,233,931,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred thirty-three billion, nine hundred thirty-one million).

Fifteen years ago, April 2, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,246,551,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred forty-six billion, five hundred fifty-one million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 2, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$457,874,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-seven billion, eight hundred seventy-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,082,212,164,177.98 (Five trillion, eighty-two billion, two hundred twelve million, one hundred sixty-four thousand, one hundred seventy-seven dollars and ninety-eight cents) during the past 25 years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLENE EVERETT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable woman who was hailed as the "grand dame of community action" by her local paper upon her passing: Willene Everett of Meriden, Connecticut. Sadly, Mrs. Everett died this past summer at the age of 74.

For 31 years, Mrs. Everett worked at the Meriden Community Action Agency, where she headed the Elderly Nutrition Program for 15 years and the children's Summer Lunch Program for 10 years. She packed a lifetime worth of achievement into her tenure at the Agency, but her life was filled with many great experiences and accomplishments before she took this job.

Her job experience ranged from working as a beautician to a mortician. And perhaps the most noteworthy of these was her experience in the military, where she served in France, Germany and England during World War II as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army.

But most of us in Connecticut will always associate Willene Everett with her work at the Community Action Center in Meriden. During her 31 year tenure, she made countless contributions. She helped to feed 1,500 people a day—both young and old. She also took the time to do the little things that brighten people's lives: sending birthday or get well cards to patrons of the Center, setting up a recipe exchange at work, traveling through snow storms to make sure that people at the Center had their breakfast and coffee.

Her work extended far beyond the Senior Center. She was President of "The Laurel Club," a social club known for its charitable work and efforts to provide scholarship funds for young African-Americans in the Meriden area. She was also active in the local NAACP and YWCA.

Her efforts did not go unrecognized. She was invited to and attended a White House Conference on Aging African-Americans during the Carter Administration. Among her awards, she received the YWCA's "Woman in Leadership Award," the "Woman of the Year" by the Girls' Club, and the "State of Connecticut General Assembly Award" in recognition of her civic and charitable work. In addition, the dining hall at the Seniors Center in Meriden has been named "Willene's Place" and a scholarship fund bearing her name is being established in her honor.

By renaming the dining hall and creating this scholarship fund, Willene Everett's name will carry on. But for those who knew her, there is no need for any form of tribute to ensure her remembrance. She was a caring and compassionate person, and she will never be forgotten by the people of Meriden, whose lives she touched and brightened.

Willene Everett is survived by her husband Edward and her children JoAnn and Steven. She was a loving wife and mother, and this year would

have actually marked her 50th wedding anniversary. She is dearly missed, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family.●

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2709

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that no earlier than May 20—however, no later than May 22—it be in order for the majority leader, after consultation with the minority leader, to turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 299, H.R. 2709. I ask unanimous consent that it be considered under the following limitations: The only amendments in order be the Levin amendment relating to the date of behavior subject to sanctions and a relevant second-degree amendment to be offered by Senator LOTT to the Levin amendment; that there be 1½ hours of debate on the bill divided in the usual form and 1½ hours on the amendments divided in the usual form. I further ask unanimous consent that following the expiration or yielding back of time and the disposition of any pending amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on the passage of H.R. 2709 with no intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. LOTT. Just one brief note, Mr. President. This does have to do with the Iran sanctions. We are still very much concerned that Russian companies are providing technology to Iran that could be used in very dangerous ways. The administration has been working with Russia to try to address this problem, but sufficient progress has not been made. The Senate cannot in good conscience allow this resolution to pend indefinitely without it being useless, so we are trying to set a time certain so that we can see if progress is being made. If not, the Senate should act.

#### CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LANDS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN VIRGINIA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3226 received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3226) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands and improvements in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3226) was passed.