

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN LANDS

● Mr. CANNON. Mr. President, I introduce for myself and my distinguished colleague, Senator LAXALT, a bill to provide for the conveyance of some 5,885 acres of public lands within the city limits of Henderson, Nev., to the city. The land would be sold to the city at the appraised fair market value after appraisal by the Secretary of the Interior. This sale would benefit both the city and the Federal Government.

The land is necessary to accommodate the city's natural expansion. The land involved is all located within the incorporated city boundaries and is in an area checkerboarded with private and public land parcels. The Federal portion is difficult for the Bureau of Land Management to administer because of this intermingling.

The estimated present population of this fast-growing city is about 25,000 but is projected to nearly double by 1985. This undeveloped area represents almost 15 percent of the total city area and must be counted on heavily to help meet the demands of the expected growth of the next few years. The city has already expended great effort in analyzing environmental impacts, cataloging the natural resources and making preliminary plans for expansion.

The logical growth patterns will depend to a great extent on this land being available on a timely basis and I am hopeful the Senate will act expeditiously to provide this benefit to the city.●

By Mr. MITCHELL (for himself, Mr. GARN, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. PROXMIRE):

S. 207. A bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 to limit the property and casualty and life insurance activities of bank holding companies and their subsidiaries; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

AMENDMENT OF BANK HOLDING COMPANY ACT

● Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. President, I am introducing today with Senators GARN, WILLIAMS, and PROXMIRE as cosponsors, legislation dealing with the insurance activities of bank holding companies. This legislation was reported by the Senate Banking Committee during the 96th Congress, but unfortunately was not considered by the Senate before the adjournment.

The bill amends the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 to limit the property and casualty and life insurance activities of bank holding companies and their subsidiaries. One of the fundamental purposes of the National Banking Act of 1864 is to prevent an undue concentration of economic power. The nonbanking activities of national banks are, therefore, extremely limited. In addition, most of the States generally prohibit insurance activities by State chartered banks.

As our national economy has grown, many commercial banks have moved to a bank holding company organization in which the banks become subsidiaries of parent holding companies. One result of the restructuring was to allow bank holding companies to engage in nonbanking activities through separate subsidiaries.

As a result, Congress limited the permissible activities of bank holding companies in 1956 and again in 1970.

The current Bank Holding Company Act permits bank holding companies to conduct nonbanking activities if certain conditions delineated by the Federal Reserve Board are met. The Independent Insurance Agents of America challenged the Federal Reserve's authorization of certain insurance activities in a Federal court action in 1977. As a result of this litigation and subsequent Federal Reserve actions, bank holding companies have been allowed to move into an insurance market that has traditionally been served by independent insurance agents—credit related property and casualty insurance.

This bill generally prohibits a bank holding company from providing insurance as a principal, agent, or broker. There are six exceptions to this general prohibition, resulting in the prohibition being principally applicable to the underwriting or sale of property and casualty insurance. Among the exemptions are the establishing of a grandfather date for the continuation of previously authorized insurance activities, and permitting bank holding companies to engage in, among other things, credit life, disability, and involuntary unemployment insurance activities.

This legislation will provide a much needed reform in the Bank Holding Company Act and will protect consumers and small businesses by insuring that bank holding companies do not gain an unfair economic advantage in the marketplace.

I welcome my colleagues' support for this legislation.●

By Mr. MATSUNAGA:

S. 229. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for inclusion of the services of licensed practical nurses under Medicare and Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

SERVICES OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES

● Mr. MATSUNAGA, Mr. President, I am introducing today legislation which would provide for the inclusion of licensed practical nursing services under the Medicare and Medicaid programs. This measure would recognize on the Federal level the important contributions that licensed practical nurses have made to our Nation's health care delivery system.

Today, there are over 500,000 licensed practical nurses providing their needed and vital services in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes, in addition to schools, doctors' offices, public health agencies, and private homes. In a sense, the LPN's form the backbone of the nursing profession, administering care to the hospitalized patient in a number of capacities and with a wide array of essential services.

They serve as bedside nurses in the hospital room, the operating room, in intensive care units, coronary care wards, in fact, in virtually every branch of medicine and health. LPN's deserve and have earned the same respect as registered nurses. An LPN can provide direct patient care at a bedside under rela-

tively stable nursing conditions, or perform nursing functions in more complex and semicomplex instances, such as are found in hospital recovery, labor, and emergency rooms.

In the area of health care delivery, LPN's assist other members of the health care delivery team in the promotion of personal and community health by promoting and carrying out preventive measures in community health facilities such as outpatient and baby clinics.

Licensed practical nurses have made and will continue to make valuable contributions to our health and medical care delivery system. By virtue of their training, LPN's are able to provide much needed basic nursing services in a wide variety of patient settings.

Furthermore, it is apparent that licensed practical nurses will have a very important role to play in the delivery of basic health and medical care under the various multitiered, cost controlled, health and medical care delivery systems that have been proposed.

Accordingly, I am introducing this legislation today to assist in the recognition of that fact by providing a mechanism in the Medicare and Medicaid programs which will demonstrate the importance of licensed practical nursing services along with physician services, registered nursing services, and all the other health and medical care professional services which together comprise the health care system of the United States.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to give thoughtful consideration and support to this proposal in connection with Medicare reform and our pressing need to enhance our country's health care system. I ask unanimous consent that my bill be printed in the RECORD for the benefit of any interested reader.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 229

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1861(s) of the Social Security Act is amended by inserting immediately before the matter following paragraph (13) the following: "The term 'medical and other health services' also means medical care, or any other type of remedial care recognized under State law, furnished by licensed practical nurses within the scope of their practice as defined by State law."

SEC. 2. (a) Section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act is amended—

(1) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (16);

(2) by inserting "and" at the end of paragraph (17);

(3) by adding immediately below paragraph (17) the following new paragraph:

"(18) medical care, or any other type of remedial care recognized under State law furnished by licensed practical nurses within the scope of their practice as defined by State law;"

(b) (1) Section 1902(a)(13)(B) of such Act is amended by inserting after "through (5)" the following: "and (18)".

(2) Section 1902(a)(13)(C)(1) of such Act is amended by inserting immediately after "through (5)" the following: "and (18)".

(3) Section 1902(a)(13)(C)(ii)(I) of such Act is amended by inserting immediately after "through (16)" the following: "and (18)".