

loans. The Senate Foreign Relations committee cut this down to \$620 million. Then, on the Senate floor, Republican Leader EVERETT DIRKSEN moved to slash this figure by another \$250 million, leaving a total of only \$370 million.

Democratic Senator WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, chairman of the Foreign Relations committee and the ostensible floor manager for the foreign aid bill, joined DIRKSEN in voting for the cut. Also supporting DIRKSEN were 30 other Democrats and 27 Republicans. Thus more Democrats than Republicans voted against the Administration. The amendment carried, 59 to 34.

Senator Majority Leader MIKE MANSFIELD explained the bipartisan opposition as expressing "a general feeling of disenchantment" and frustrations. A number of the opposition Democrats also are against President Johnson's Vietnam policies. DIRKSEN said the cut was needed to reduce overall Administration spending which invites inflation. The Republicans pointed out the President's own recent advice to Congress to cut down on appropriations.

Another Dirksen amendment adopted by the Senate would prohibit AID loans unless they are approved by the World Bank. A further restriction, also Republican sponsored, calls for raising interest or service charges on such loans.

Altogether, President Johnson suffered a politically remarkable setback and rebuke. The final form of the foreign aid program, however, will not be determined until the Senate finishes consideration of more amendments and the bill goes to a House-Senate conference.

ALASKA SIBERIA

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. President, in 1956 the Congress enacted the Alaska Mental Health Act transferring the responsibility for the care and treatment of Alaska's mentally ill from the Interior Department to the Territory of Alaska. This law brought to an end what had long been described as an "archaic and inhumane" system for the care of Alaska's mentally ill.

The law provided authorization for an appropriation of \$6 million over a 10-year period on a diminishing scale as grants to the Territory to assist in meeting costs until the end of the period when Alaska would have the entire financial responsibility.

The law also authorized a \$6½ million appropriation for construction of hospital facilities.

A third major provision granted to the Territory the right to select 1 million acres of land with the revenues from such land to be applied first to the mental health program.

This modern program for Alaska's mentally ill was born in strife and engendered in the then 48 States one of the most vicious "hate" campaigns ever encountered by Members of Congress.

After passage in the House, the Senate was literally deluged with mounting protests that Congress was setting up a million-acre "Alaska Siberia."

The charges grew more reckless and unreasoning until Congress was accused of trying to establish in Alaska a barbed-wire enclosure of 1 million acres for political enemies.

Reason prevailed over the thousands of letters from all over the country, and the measure became law.

During the 10 years which have passed since the law was enacted, the old charges of an "Alaska Siberia" have cropped up from time to time throughout the country. Now the canard is repeated in the July issue of Common Sense.

I have written to the editor and ask unanimous consent that my letter be made part of the RECORD at this point.

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

AUGUST 1, 1966.

EDITOR, COMMON SENSE,
Union, N.J.

DEAR SIR: I am surprised and shocked that Common Sense is still harping on the charge that a million acres of Alaska land is being held ready for internment of political "offenders". The word in quotation marks is yours.

You base this broadside on an article which appeared in the New York Times December 27, 1955 which stated that the United States "could intern 5000 spies and saboteurs almost immediately in the event of war, an invasion or an insurrection." No mention was made in that article about Alaska.

However, the following are words that Common Sense used in a caption which appeared below a partial reprint of the New York Times article:

"Just for whom are 'they' reserving these detention (concentration) camps?—Also the million acres set aside in Alaska 'for the construction of a mental hospital and other facilities . . . to provide an integrated health program.' Is perhaps the real purpose to establish concentration camps for Political Opponents, under the guise of care and treatment of mental cases."

This preposterous allegation was first made by a California newspaper when the Alaska Mental Health Act came before the Congress for consideration. It was repeated throughout the land by all too many people. A half hour devoted to research would be sufficient to demonstrate the absurdity of trying to couple the million acre land grant to a "plot" aimed at what you term political "offenders".

The Alaska Mental Health Act was passed before Alaska became a state. The million acre grant was made to help the Territory of Alaska finance a mental health program from the proceeds of the disposition of that land. Among other things, as a result of this act, Alaska now has a modern psychiatric institute and it is no longer necessary to send all Alaskans ill of mental diseases thousands of miles from their homes for treatment.

Common sense implies that the million acre tract is in one unit. It is not. It was never intended to be. The territorial government and subsequently the state government was entitled to choose land in large or small tracts. This it has done.

As of June 30, 1966 the state had applied for 976,720 acres out of the million acre grant. Tentative approval has been given to 308,262 acres and patent has been granted for 544,453 acres. I am advised by Mr. Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Natural Resources for the State of Alaska, that "the selections are located all over the state; i.e., within those areas eliminated from the national forest in southeastern Alaska as well as throughout the rest of the state. The size of tracts selected has varied from a few acres to several tens of thousands. There have been no restrictive acreage limitations on these selections.

"We have used our mental health selection authority as a means of not only providing maximum revenues to the state, but also protecting certain lands for continued use by the state and not subject to borough se-

lection. You, no doubt, realize that all mental health lands are subject to competitive leasing for oil and gas, and we utilized our selection entitlement in cases where previously withdrawn land which appear valuable for oil and gas development suddenly became available for state selection."

That statement by Mr. Holdsworth ought to dispel any notion that the million acres of land is being held in a single unit and will be used one day as a concentration camp. But I doubt it. I predict that this baseless, incomprehensible allegation will continue to be made year after year, just as common sense has now made it.

Sincerely yours,

E. L. BARTLETT.

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. President, about 6 years ago the Alaska Psychiatric Institute was dedicated, and on September 26, 1962, I told the Senate of that event and reviewed the background of the Alaska Mental Health Act. Because it tells in detail the history of passage of that measure and because I hope it will lay to rest at long last the fabrications and charges surrounding the bill, I ask unanimous consent that my address to the Senate be made part of the RECORD.

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

NEW HOSPITAL OPENS IN ALASKA

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. President, Sunday, September 9, was a beautiful day in Anchorage, Alaska. The sky was clear. The sun was warm. The mountains stood out in bold relief. Nature was in an autumnal mood.

On the afternoon of that day the Alaska Psychiatric Institute was dedicated. This is the newest, most modern hospital in the world for the care of the mentally ill. It will begin to receive patients next month. Designed to care for 225 people at the outset, the institute is so planned that it may be expanded.

I traveled almost 9,000 miles in order to be at the dedication ceremony. I flew from Washington, D.C., to Anchorage and back over the weekend only so that I might be present for the dedicatory exercises. For everyone present it was a thrilling occasion. For some few of us it was even more meaningful. For three of us there on that day this was the culmination of an effort which began over a decade ago. For a fourth, this represented attainment of a goal which, for a time, seemed impossibly distant.

Winfred Overholser, M.D., the great psychiatrist who has been superintendent of St. Elizabeths Hospital here in Washington, D.C., for a quarter of a century, was present. Jack Haldeman, M.D., Assistant Surgeon General of the United States was there. I had the good fortune to be present. And Marjorie Shearon, Ph. D., who made such a significant contribution to the passage of the act which made possible the building of the institute, honored us by her presence. It was Dr. Overholser who, in 1949, headed a committee which subsequently reported the need for Alaska mental health legislation. This was a forerunner of the draft bill which became law.

In those days Dr. Haldeman headed up Public Health Service work in Alaska. Then and later he worked hard for passage of adequate mental health legislation.

The Alaska Psychiatric Institute was constructed because the Congress of the United States and the executive branch of the Government saw an imperative need for it and responded to that need generously and helpfully.

The then Territory of Alaska was and had been throughout its existence strangely situated in respect to the treatment of the mentally ill. For reasons not entirely clear,