

Commission would take place within 210 days of enactment of the act. It is clear that first meeting as well as the actual 2-year duration of the Commission should be based on the date on which the first formal meeting is held. This is the practical effect of the budgeting process, to which the Commission is bound.

Mr. GRASSLEY. We are all bound by the budgeting process and must adjust our actions accordingly. I have one other question for my colleague, regarding the Commission membership requirements. I understand that the membership provision of the Commission was intended to preclude from continued membership a person who had been appointed to that position due to his or her capacity as an officer or employee of a government. Would the Senator from Alabama explain to me who this provision is meant to preclude from membership on the Commission?

Mr. HEFLIN. I will be happy to help to clear up any questions which may have been raised regarding membership on the Commission. It is my understanding that this provision is intended to preclude from continued membership on the Commission those Commissioners who are appointed based solely on the capacity of the governmental office for which they hold. If that Commissioner should leave the governmental position during their term then they can no longer serve on the Commission.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS, 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the underlying pending business, H.R. 1817.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1817) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, as soon as we can get order, I will ask unanimous consent that the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee be recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1834

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on amendment No. 1834 offered by the Senator from New Mexico. Under the previous order, there will be 4 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on the motion to table the amendment.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I would like to propound a unanimous-consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES— H.R. 1854

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I will propound a unanimous-consent agree-

ment on the legislative appropriations bill that we passed last night.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendments to H.R. 1854, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and that the Chair appoint conferees.

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

The Presiding Officer (Mr. KYL) appointed Mr. MACK, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. HATFIELD, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. MIKULSKI conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. PACKWOOD addressed the Chair.

Mr. BURNS. I yield to the Senator from Oregon for the purpose of an announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, the Finance Committee has not yet had its hearing of Lawrence Summers to be Under Secretary of the Treasury. We will be convening the Finance Committee as soon as the last vote is over. I would appreciate it if Members can get there reasonably promptly. It is a controversial nomination. I hope it will not take a long time. We will be taking it up at about a quarter to 1, whenever we finish with the vote. I thank my friend from Montana.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS, 1996

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I think we have 4 minutes equally divided. I yield 1 minute to the Senator from Idaho, [Mr. KEMPTHORNE].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the Bingham amendment. During a hearing before the Armed Services Committee earlier this year, Defense Secretary Bill Perry testified that under the present budget, it will take over 50 years to renovate many of the family housing units currently in use by the armed services of America. We know we are falling behind in readiness. The military construction projects that will be canceled by the proposed amendments will help address these quality-of-life and readiness problems.

We have just gone through three difficult rounds of the base closure process. The bases and the facilities that have survived are the keepers. We need to make investments to maintain the infrastructure that literally serves as the foundation of our armed services. Therefore, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote to table the Bingham amendment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield 1 minute to the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I join my cochairman of the State National

Guard Caucus, Senator BOND of Missouri, and our colleagues in opposing the Bingham amendment. The military construction funds this amendment seeks to delete are not frivolous. They are necessary to the very backbone of our military.

In my State alone, these funds go to build barracks to move our soldiers out of the World War II clapboard barracks. Why is it not a Pentagon priority to replace these barracks and provide a better quality of life for our soldiers?

The citizens of this country are well aware of the military drawdown in this country, but they have not asked our young men and women to stop volunteering their services, whether it be full-time active duty or part time as a reservist or guardsman.

Mr. President, I have watched them leave our communities, and many of them do not come back. I watched the best surgeons in my State and scrub nurses go to the Persian Gulf, and they did their job. Let us not turn our back on these people now. Vote to table this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico has 2 minutes.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that Senator FEINGOLD be added as a cosponsor on the amendment.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. I yield 1 minute to my colleague from Arizona, who is also a cosponsor.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the fact is that these are nice projects. They are in the 5-year plan of the Pentagon, but they are not required at this time. There is simply additional spending that is not necessary. There are far higher priorities for us to be able to meet our national security challenges than adding money for military construction at this time. They are good projects. They are not needed at this time, and if we are going to spend \$300 million additionally, I could find seven other areas that are much higher in priority than this one. If we are going to show some fiscal responsibility, we ought to start now.

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, we are spending extra time voting on this amendment since we just voted to rescind \$16.4 billion in domestic spending. I think that was a courageous vote; it was a hard choice.

What this amendment that we are now considering does is it says that we will allow \$474 million of add-ons to military construction, but we will not allow an additional \$300 million above that. This is not a question of funding the National Guard. There is plenty of money in this bill to fund the National Guard needs. This is not a question of family housing. There is plenty of money in this bill to fund the family housing needs of the military.

What we are saying is deficit reduction has to matter, even when you are

talking about defense dollars, as well as when you are talking about domestic dollars.

Mr. President, this is a reasonable amendment. It brings the bill into line with the President's request. It is fiscally responsible.

I urge my colleagues to vote against tabling the amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1834

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 1834 offered by the Senator from New Mexico, [Mr. BINGAMAN].

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. LOTT. I announce that the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT], and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] are necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN] are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 322 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Abraham	Exon	Mack
Akaka	Ford	McConnell
Baucus	Frist	Mikulski
Bennett	Gorton	Murkowski
Biden	Gramm	Murray
Bond	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Packwood
Bryan	Harkin	Pell
Bumpers	Hatch	Pressler
Burns	Hatfield	Pryor
Byrd	Hefflin	Reid
Campbell	Helms	Robb
Chafee	Hollings	Rockefeller
Coats	Hutchison	Santorum
Cochran	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Cohen	Jeffords	Shelby
Conrad	Johnston	Simpson
Coverdell	Kassebaum	Smith
Craig	Kempthorne	Snowe
D'Amato	Kennedy	Specter
Daschle	Kerry	Stevens
DeWine	Lautenberg	Thomas
Dodd	Leahy	Thompson
Dole	Lieberman	Thurmond
Domenici	Lott	Warner
Dorgan	Lugar	

NAYS—18

Bingaman	Graham	McCain
Boxer	Grams	Moseley-Braun
Bradley	Kerrey	Moynihan
Brown	Kohl	Roth
Feingold	Kyl	Simon
Glenn	Levin	Wellstone

NOT VOTING—5

Ashcroft	Feinstein	Nunn
Faircloth	Inouye	

So the motion to lay on the table the amendment (No. 1834) was agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I move to table the motion.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, as we consider the fiscal year 1996 Milcon appropriations bill, I wish to commend Senator BURNS, the chairman of the Military Construction Appropriations Sub-

committee, and Senator REID, the subcommittee's ranking member, for their hard work in preparing this bill for floor action. It is evidence of the able leadership of Chairman BURNS and Chairman HATFIELD that we can consider this bill so quickly. I would also like to commend Jim Morhard and Warren Johnson of the subcommittee staff for their efforts in crafting a comprehensive and responsible bill.

Mr. President, this is an important bill. It provides the Armed Forces with funds to construct facilities which are necessary in preparing them to protect the United States and our interests around the world. It also fully funds the requested amounts for BRAC II, BRAC III, and BRAC IV. In addition, the bill provides funds for the renovation and construction of barracks and family housing. The military's most important assets are the men and women who sacrifice every day to ensure the security of this great Nation. It is the least we can do to provide them and their families with quality housing.

I am pleased that the bill also provides funding for the Department of Defense's initiative to develop private sector solutions to the current military housing shortfalls. It is a viable option as we consider how to better meet the needs of our service men and women. I encourage the Department to work with Congress and with the Military Appropriations Subcommittee so that this program might move forward expeditiously.

Mr. President, I would also like to commend Chairman BURNS and Chairman HATFIELD for their efforts to meet the construction needs of the Reserve components. Last year, during consideration of the fiscal year 1995 military construction bill, I expressed my disappointment with the President's budget and its lack of funding for Guard and Reserve construction projects. At that time, I expressed my hope that this year's budget would more adequately address the needs of the Reserve component. The Department of Defense did include some Guard and Reserve projects in the fiscal year 1996 budget. Chairman BURNS went further to ensure that additional Guard and Reserve projects were funded. In my view, that is a crucial step. As the Active Force continues to draw down, the Guard and Reserves will be asked to take on more day-to-day missions. In my view, it is our responsibility to ensure that they have the necessary facilities to meet these growing demands.

I am aware that the committee has added projects that were not included in the President's request. The committee judged each of these projects by strict criteria in an effort to ensure that military construction dollars are used wisely. The projects that have been added directly impact the readiness and quality of life for our Armed Forces.

In closing, Mr. President, I again commend my colleagues for their hard work on this bill. I thank them for their assistance in moving this bill forward and urge my colleagues to support it.

AIR FORCE RESERVE AND MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, Senator LEVIN and I would like to engage the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction in a brief discussion regarding the impact of H.R. 1817 on this year and future year's military construction projects. The committee report accompanying H.R. 1817 recommends \$6.4 million for airfield pavement additions at the Phelps-Collins Air National Guard Base in Alpena, MI. The requirement justification report for this project states this program will increase sortie generation and allow the military to conduct much more realistic training operations.

I also understand an air combat maneuvering instrumentation range for operations at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center was authorized by the 1995 Defense Authorization Act and is contained in the Air National Guard future year defense plan for initial installation starting 1997. If the Air National Guard were to support this future year plan and request an appropriation for the equipment housing construction, would you view this project as a reasonable step towards providing the needed improvements in operational effectiveness at the Phelps-Collins Air National Guard Base and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center?

Mr. BURNS. Yes I do. The committee allowance for the Phelps-Collins Airfield pavements additions project was done in order to reduce the potential for an aircraft mishap, increase sortie generation, improve the utilization of the base and the training center, and allow for the future expansion of this facility for full operational training, including an air combat maneuvering instrumentation range expansion.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to follow up on my colleague's question in asking the ranking member whether he agrees that a modern Combat Readiness Training Center is warranted given the training deployments to Europe have been reduced with the closure of many overseas bases, and the fact that the Alpena facility is the only Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center that does not have an air combat maneuvering instrumentation system? I would think that the unencumbered supersonic training airspace available for this range would make it a uniquely valuable training resource.

Mr. REID. I am aware that both of my colleagues from Michigan and from elsewhere in the Great Lakes region are strongly supportive of expanded

training opportunities for their Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units. The Air National Guard made a strong case for expanding the operations at Alpena given the projected force levels and expected military construction funding priorities. Because of that we funded the project the subcommittee chairman referred to. I believe the subcommittee would entertain such a budget submission by the Air National Guard and would follow a logical program for expanding operations at Alpena.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee for their support and I believe I speak for both myself and my colleague from Michigan when we say we look forward to working with them on this issue during the 1997 budget cycle. Mr. President, I wish to continue this discussion with the chairman on the issue of the fuel systems maintenance dock at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens, MI. The Air Force Reserve unit here has converted from an C-130 to a KC-135 mission, but is forced to tow its aircraft over 2 miles to perform critical fuel cell and corrosion control work. A project to provide a facility adequate to handle these repairs much nearer to the aircraft flight line will preclude major repair scheduling conflicts, sustain aircraft material condition, and improve flight safety. Would the submission by the Air Force Reserve for this project in the 1997 budget be reviewed favorably?

Mr. BURNS. I believe if current budget projections hold forth, such a project would be strongly supported. Considering this project is already in the 1997 future year defense plan, I invite the Air Force Reserve to submit this project for congressional review.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their time today and this opportunity to discuss these vital military construction projects. I join my fellow Senator from Michigan in calling upon the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve to submit these two vital projects for congressional approval. These two projects represent initiatives vital to the operating efficiency of the few remaining Michigan Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units. Furthermore, it which will significantly improve the operating capabilities of not only these units, but any other aviation unit that wishes to utilize this unique facility. I therefore join with my colleague from Michigan in calling upon the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve to submit these two projects, in accordance with their future year defense plans, as part of their 1997 budget submission.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the Senate is now considering H.R. 1817, the fiscal year 1996 military construction appropriations bill.

The bill provides a total of \$11.2 billion in budget authority and \$3.1 bil-

lion in new outlays for the military construction and family housing programs of the Department of Defense for fiscal year 1996.

When outlays from prior-year budget authority and other completed actions are taken into account, the bill totals \$11.2 billion in budget authority and \$9.6 billion in outlays for fiscal year 1996.

Mr. President, the bill provides for readiness and quality of life programs for our servicemen and women. The bill falls within the subcommittees 602(B) allocation.

I want to convey my thanks to the committee for the support given to several priority projects in New Mexico.

I commend the distinguished subcommittee chairman, the senator from Montana, for bringing this bill to the floor within the subcommittee's section 602(B) allocation.

I urge the passage of this bill.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I wish to point out to the chairman of the subcommittee that the recent approval of the 1995 base closure list by the President has changed the circumstances surrounding one of the projects in this legislation. The bill is based on recommendations the subcommittee received from the Defense Department, and as a result this bill has insufficient funding to complete the construction of the distribution facility at Red River Army Depot. Because the Defense Logistics Agency suspended work on the distribution facility pending a decision by the Base Closure Commission and just recently resumed work on the project, an adjustment to the funding level will be required. Less than 1 week ago, the Defense Department formally asked the building contractor for an estimate of any costs resulting from the temporary delay in construction, and an answer is expected within 1 month. Because we do not yet know how the total cost of the distribution facility will change, I ask the chairman and ranking member to work with me and the Defense Department in conference to be sure this vital Red River Army Depot project has sufficient funds to ensure its completion.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am aware of the situation at Red River Army Depot, and I want to assure my colleague that our subcommittee has no intent to impede the progress of this project. We will be happy to work with the distinguished Senator from Texas to ensure this project is fully funded so that it may be completed without further interruption or delay.

Mr. CHAFEE. I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Military Construction Subcommittee, Senators BURNS and REID, for their hard work in producing this appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996.

Included in the bill is \$18 million for phase 2 of the Strategic Maritime Research Center at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. The Naval War College boasts a long and proud tradition of excellence in military education and state-of-the-art wargaming.

Unfortunately, though, the War College's library is badly undersized, and its wargaming facility is unsuited to today's technological demands. The Strategic Maritime Research Center will jointly house the college's wargaming department and library in one modern facility.

This facility will help continue to provide our military with the best-educated, best-prepared officers who will be able to meet the increasingly complex national security challenges our Nation faces. It will also help us continue an important diplomatic mission, as the Naval War College very often hosts military officers from abroad who participate in a number of wargaming and educational endeavors.

Again, I would like to thank Senators BURNS and REID in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, as a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Military Construction Subcommittee, I voted to have the fiscal year 1996 military construction appropriations bill brought to the Senate floor.

The military construction bill is \$2.4 billion more than what we spent last year on military construction and \$461 million more than the administration's requested level of spending for military construction. If we truly intend to reduce the budget deficit, we cannot exempt the military construction account from cuts. Especially given that the Bingaman amendment to eliminate \$300 million in add-ons failed, I will be voting against final passage of the fiscal year 1996 military construction appropriations bill.

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, it is with regret that I must cast my vote against the fiscal year 1996 military construction appropriation bill. We simply cannot justify the level of spending contained in this legislation.

This bill funds many worthy projects. For example, I strongly support efforts to improve the quality of life for our service men and women. I support the infrastructure construction that is absolutely necessary to keep our military in fighting shape. I have long supported the military value of McGuire AFB in my own State of New Jersey. Indeed, I worked hard and successfully to keep McGuire open and performing its vital military missions. I will support the spending that McGuire needs to prosper.

But all of these worthy projects are embedded in a bill larded with pork. It is \$461 million higher than the President's budget request, and over \$2.4 billion above last year's funding total. It contains hundreds of millions of dollars in unauthorized spending. At a time of budget stringency, when we are asking all Americans to make sacrifices, I simply cannot support a 28-percent increase in spending for military construction.

AMENDMENT NO. 1835

Mr. SIMON. I have an amendment offered by Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN and

myself that I send to the desk for immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] for himself and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN proposes an amendment numbered 1835.

Mr. SIMON. I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following.

SEC. . . . FORT SHERIDAN.

(a) In order to ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the open spaces of Fort Sheridan, the Secretary of the Army shall convey to the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Illinois, (in this section referred to as "the District"), all right, title, and interest of the United States to a parcel of surplus real property at Fort Sheridan consisting of approximately 290 acres located north of the southerly boundary line of the historic district at the post, including improvements thereon.

(b) As consideration for the conveyance by the Secretary of the Army of the parcel of real property under subsection (a), the District shall provide maintenance and care to the remaining Fort Sheridan cemetery, pursuant to an agreement to be entered into between the District and the Secretary. The Secretary of the Army shall be responsible to continue interments at the cemetery for the remainder of its use.

(c) The Secretary of the Army is also authorized to convey the remaining surplus property at Fort Sheridan to the negotiating agent, or its successor, for an amount no less than fair market value (as determined by the Secretary of the Army) of the property to be conveyed.

(d) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property (including improvements thereon) to be conveyed under subsections (a) and (c) shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of such surveys shall be borne by the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and the Fort Sheridan Joint Planning Committee, respectively.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interest of the United States, except for consideration previously provided for in paragraph (c).

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, this is an amendment I discussed with Senator BURNS. It solves a problem that has been festering in regard to an abandoned military base.

Everyone—Congressman PORTER from the House side—everyone has agreed to it. I understand there may be some problems. I yield to Senator BURNS.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Illinois. We do have some problems on this side with it. We will work with the Senator and the Illinois delegation on this as we move through conference.

I am reluctant to accept the amendment at this present time.

AMENDMENT NO. 1835 WITHDRAWN

Mr. SIMON. With that assurance, I will withdraw my amendment.

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

So the amendment (No. 1835) was withdrawn.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I know of no further amendments to this piece of legislation. I believe that we are ready to move to third reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment of the committee amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I announce that the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT], the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH], and the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] would vote "yea."

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], the Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN], and the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR] are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced, yeas 84, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 323 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Abraham	Feinstein	Lugar
Akaka	Ford	Mack
Bennett	Frist	McConnell
Biden	Glenn	Mikulski
Bond	Graham	Moynihan
Boxer	Gramm	Murkowski
Breaux	Grams	Murray
Brown	Grassley	Nickles
Bryan	Gregg	Packwood
Bumpers	Harkin	Pell
Burns	Hatch	Pressler
Byrd	Hatfield	Reid
Campbell	Hefflin	Robb
Chafee	Helms	Rockefeller
Coats	Hollings	Roth
Cochran	Hutchison	Santorum
Cohen	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Conrad	Jeffords	Shelby
Coverdell	Johnston	Simon
Craig	Kassebaum	Simpson
D'Amato	Kempthorne	Smith
Daschle	Kennedy	Snowe
DeWine	Kerry	Specter
Dodd	Lautenberg	Stevens
Dole	Leahy	Thomas
Domenici	Levin	Thompson
Dorgan	Lieberman	Thurmond
Exon	Lott	Warner

NAYS—10

Baucus	Kerrey	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Kohl	Wellstone
Bradley	Kyl	
Feingold	McCain	

NOT VOTING—6

Ashcroft	Gorton	Nunn
Faircloth	Inouye	Pryor

So, the bill (H.R. 1817), as amended, was passed.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist on its amendments to the bill, H.R. 1817, and request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. That concludes action on this bill, Mr. President. I wish to thank my colleague and ranking member on this committee. I thank our staffs, those who have worked so hard on this bill. I appreciate their help at every turn.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATFIELD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I wish to take just a couple minutes to indicate my congratulations and my commendation to the Subcommittee on Military Construction. I would like to remind the Senate that this is the first action of the Appropriations Committee in the Chamber under the new majority rule. We came to the floor with very great efficiency considering that we were required to wait until the conference committee had completed work on the Budget Committee budget resolution.

We were only able to issue our 602(b) allocations at the first of the week. We have now completed two appropriations bills on the floor. We will report four more out next week.

I wish to also acknowledge the efficiency and smooth operation that has thus far characterized these two bills. In great part, it is because of the professional staff. I raise that first instead of the normal way of talking about the Members. I wish to make that a point because our staff has been so focused on professionalism on our committee and a nonpartisan approach. You can note very little disturbance or confusion in the readjustment of moving from the majority to the minority or the minority to the majority; our staffs have that continuity and expertise.

I refer specifically to Jim Morhard on our side and Dick D'Amato on the minority side. Not only are they experts and have the continuity of service, but they really provide us with stability and efficiency within this committee.

Needless to say, the leadership of the committee is in the hands of very capable people, Senator BURNS of Montana and Senator REID of Nevada. Both of them are veterans on that committee and both of them have provided leadership as they have been on that committee, Senator REID first as a part of the majority and now the minority, Senator BURNS in the minority and now the majority. If you see these two gentlemen work in their committee, you

would have no way to detect any difference of performance, any less dedication or any less efficiency.

So I wish to commend the leaders for providing that kind of virus that infects our staff and creates a harmonious committee. Senator BYRD, the ranking member of our committee, certainly has become again a part of that overall philosophy and that kind of performance of our committee, and I wish to take this time to thank Senator BYRD as well, the ranking member of the full committee.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 641

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate, at 1:30 p.m., turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 47, S. 641, the Ryan White Care Act.

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

Mr. LOTT. It is the hope of the leadership that all of the opening statements would be concluded on this bill today and an amendment would be laid down for consideration when the Senate returns to this item next week.

With that announcement, there will be no further votes today. The first votes on Monday will occur beginning at 5 p.m.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. McCONNELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

ETHICS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to take just a moment to respond to the distinguished Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER], who has been working to achieve public hearings on the sexual misconduct case against Senator PACKWOOD.

Mr. President, on July 10, several Senators wrote to me and the vice chairman urging the committee to convene public hearings. Several days later, my friend from California wrote to us on her own to inform us if the Ethics Committee had not voted to hold public hearings within a week of

her July 14 letter, she would seek a vote of the full Senate on the issue of public hearings in the Packwood case.

Today, the Senator said that if the committee has not met by the close of business today, she will bring her legislation to the floor at the first opportunity next week.

Mr. President, I think I speak for all committee chairmen and chairwomen as well as previous chairmen and chairwomen when I say our committee schedule and agenda must not be dictated by another Senator. As strongly as the Senator from California believes there should be hearings in the Packwood case, I strongly believe that the Ethics Committee's timetable must not be set by a single Senator.

One thing is certain. The Ethics Committee will not meet today and will not schedule a future meeting today. We will not respond to any attempts to threaten the committee. If we open the door to that, in the future there could well be numerous efforts to bring ethics matters to the full Senate, and that is a dangerous road to take, Mr. President.

The committee would like to complete work on the Packwood case but perhaps everyone needs a cooling-off period. As long as Senator BOXER's threat remains, the cooling-off period will continue.

The one issue Senator BOXER and I agree upon is that the case before the committee is a serious one. It is one which has commanded the attention of committee members for countless hours over the last 2½ years. The committee members have labored long and hard, and they know much more about this case than any other Member of the Senate.

There is much to say about the Packwood case. Now is not the time to say it. I can assure my colleagues and the Senator from California that at the appropriate time, I will speak fully about the case and about the committee's work. At that time, I hope my colleagues will have a better understanding of the significance and the dimension of the matter.

The Senator's efforts are ill-informed and badly timed. After all, the committee lost practically a year in a legal dispute over obtaining Senator PACKWOOD's diary as evidence in the case. If Senator BOXER takes us on another such frolic and detour, it will only further distract us and prevent us from concluding this important case, and it will interfere with the Senate's agenda and the work the American people sent us here to do.

So if we find ourselves on the floor in the coming days debating legislation regarding hearings in the Packwood case or any other subject related to Ethics Committee procedures, I will be prepared, and I am sure others will be prepared, to discuss and debate congressional action on misconduct cases in the past and other relevant issues.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I had sought recognition prior to the votes on the amendments offered by the Senator from Illinois, Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, and the Senator from Minnesota, Senator PAUL WELLSTONE, prior to those votes. But since all time had expired and there was a tight timetable because other Senators wished to catch planes, there was not an opportunity to speak, and I would like to make a few brief comments at this time.

I opposed those amendments not because I would not have preferred to have seen the additional funding in those important accounts, but because those issues had been resolved in a very extensive negotiation session with the House of Representatives and further proceedings with the White House.

When Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN made the statement, yes, we have to make cuts, that they have to be made fairly, I certainly agree with her totally. The measure which came out of the subcommittee which I chair, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, was a vigorous, incisive, strenuous effort to make those cuts as fairly as we could and to establish priorities.

When the amendment offered by Senator WELLSTONE and Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN included veterans job training, displaced workers job training, education infrastructure, safe and drug free schools, education technology, Eisenhower professional development, job training partnership youth job training and the job training partnership adult job training, I would have wanted very much to have included those additional sums. My voting record is plain on that subject.

In fact, when the House of Representatives sent over a rescissions package of \$5.9 billion, as a result of action taken by the Senate subcommittee which I chair and then the full Senate in extended proceedings, that \$5.9 billion in cuts was reduced by some \$3 billion so that we did restore a tremendous amount of money.

When it comes to the question of LIHEAP, low-income heat and energy assistance, as Senator WELLSTONE noted—I was on the floor at the time—he referred to the Senator from Pennsylvania as a champion of LIHEAP, which I thank him for and I think the record of the last 15 years will support.

When the House of Representatives had sent over \$5.9 billion in cuts and had zeroed out \$1.319 billion, I made a fight of it. I started that fight and won it by reinserting \$1 billion of those funds and seeing to it that we added an additional \$300 million to the President's emergency fund. That means