

complete action on the welfare bill by next Tuesday, and I think we are making progress on our side and I hope it is going to be a bipartisan effort before it is over. I hope we will have Democratic support. But we would like to move forward and dispose of the Democratic proposal—by “dispose,” I mean either adopt it or not adopt it, that would be disposition; hopefully not adopt it—and then to move on to amendments, if necessary, and I assume some will be necessary, and then complete action by next Tuesday.

I think we have now completed action on seven appropriations bills. There are no other appropriations bills now ready for consideration. We may try a two-track system—I will discuss that with the Democratic leader—so we can keep abreast of the House on appropriations bills and have all appropriations bills in the President's hands by October 1.

So it may mean some late, late, late evenings. But we will try to accommodate major concerns that many Senators have from time to time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

CONGRATULATING THE LEADERSHIP

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wonder if we could all join in thanking the distinguished majority leader for his assistance on getting this very important bill through. There were times just before the recess when the list of amendments was as long as your arm. Together with our distinguished chairman and the ranking member, and, indeed, the Democratic leader, we were able to condense an almost impossible list of amendments and proceed to this bill and set a time certain for a vote. I think there is a great value in the Senate when we can establish a time when Senators can expect to have a vote on a major piece of legislation like this.

I congratulate the distinguished chairman, Chairman THURMOND, of South Carolina. I think the people of his State can take great pride.

This is your first bill—although having served on the committee these many, many years—this is the first bill on which your name is on it as chairman of the committee. It was your leadership that enabled this bill to be passed right on time. That leadership started in the very early days of the hearings—first at the subcommittee level, then at the full committee, through markup, with the able assistance of the distinguished ranking member, Mr. NUNN of Georgia.

So, I congratulate our leadership. We are fortunate, and I think I may say to both, that they carried it on in the finest traditions established many years ago by your predecessors, both as chairman and ranking member, in a bipartisan way.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to add my congratulations

to the committee chairman and the ranking member of our committee for the superb job they did in this authorization bill. Many people came together to make this bill happen. I think the chairman provided leadership. He stood for a strong national defense. It was a bipartisan effort on behalf of the full committee to try to make sure that when our young men and women sign up to protect our freedom, they will have the training and the backing of our country to do the job. That is what the chairman decided we were going to do. There was not a week that went by that the chairman did not talk to his fellow members and colleagues about the importance of keeping our strong national defense.

So I want to commend him for the great job that he did. I am proud to be a member of the Armed Services Committee. I also want to commend the leadership of Senator WARNER, the No. 2 person on the committee, who was deputized by the chairman to meet with people on the very important issue of theater missile defense, because this is an important long-term issue for our country. Senator WARNER led the effort, along with Senator COHEN, Senator NUNN, and Senator LEVIN, to make sure that we did have a strong commitment to our own defenses so that no matter what might happen in the field of technology in the next 10 years, we are going to protect our country and our shores.

So I commend Senator THURMOND, Senator NUNN, Senator WARNER, and all of those who made this very important bill happen, and I will look forward to working with them in the conference committee to maintain the freedom and the protection and security of our country in the fine tradition that we have had.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I wish to thank the able Senator from Texas for her kind remarks. She is a very prominent and able member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and does a great job. We appreciate all that she has done in connection with this particular bill.

Again, I wish to thank Senator WARNER for the fine job he has done, and Senator NUNN for his fine cooperation and assistance.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the chairman with respect to our distinguished colleague, the Senator from Texas. I am privileged to have her as a member of my subcommittee. She certainly looks out for the interests of not only the United States, but certainly the people of Texas.

I wish to recognize the occupant of the chair, the Presiding Officer, who was very helpful throughout this piece of legislation, although not a member of our committee, primarily because the senior Senator is a member and, therefore, he cannot be. But we look forward to working with him in the course of the conference on a number

of issues, primarily the issue of missile defense on which he is an acknowledged expert.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator PRYOR is recognized.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for recognizing me.

TESTING OF THEATER MISSILE DEFENSE INTERCEPTORS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise to briefly discuss a small, and virtually unnoticed amendment to the DOD authorization bill that just passed the U.S. Senate. It was an amendment offered by Senator NUNN, Senator BINGAMAN, and myself to restore some common sense to the Missile Defense Act of 1995.

As my colleagues know, the Missile Defense Act of 1995 contains, among other things, an aggressive program to develop and deploy theater missile defenses in the form of sophisticated missile interceptors.

Our amendment to the DOD bill will help ensure that these interceptors are tested properly so we know how the taxpayer's money is being spent on these programs.

If we want to protect ourselves from the threat of missile attacks, we should make sure these interceptor programs are capable of destroying incoming missiles.

I was disappointed that this bill originally deleted a provision passed by Congress 2 years ago that would help us monitor these programs through a series of live-fire tests.

I believe it would be dangerous for the Senate to show a lack of interest in monitoring the progress of our theater missile defense interceptors. Our primary concern should be in making sure they are maturing properly.

Mr. President, I am pleased that the Director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization [BMDO] and the Pentagon's Director of Operational Testing agreed to work together in an effort to help us properly emphasize the importance of testing our TMD interceptor programs.

I applaud the Director of the BMDO, Gen. Malcolm O'Neill, and the Director of Operational Testing, Phil Coyle, for working cooperatively in this effort.

Mr. President, this is a responsible amendment that asks the Pentagon to periodically assess the maturity of each interceptor program, and to advise the Congress on the progress we're making. It also asks the Secretary of Defense to certify to Congress that these programs work properly before they enter into full-rate production. Finally, this amendment will help prevent the wasteful practice of building weapon systems that do not work as expected.

This concept, Mr. President, is commonly referred to as “Fly Before You Buy.” Fly Before You Buy means that new weapons must demonstrate their progress and maturity in operational

testing so that we do not waste money buying systems that do not work, that give us a false sense of security.

I am proud to say, Mr. President, that with this amendment, the weapon developers in the BMDO office and the Pentagon's testers have worked together to reach an agreement on the proposed language.

This is indeed a remarkable accomplishment that the entire U.S. Senate and the Congress should applaud.

This is exactly the type of productive cooperation that Senator GRASSLEY, Senator ROTH, and I envisioned when we wrote the legislation creating the independent testing office back in 1983: Developers and testers working together for a common goal. Unfortunately, for many years, the developers have refused to allow operational testers to monitor their progress. Too often in the Pentagon, the word "test" is considered a four-letter word.

This is exactly the scenario we should avoid with our interceptor programs.

We have already spent well over \$5 billion on theater missile defense interceptors. In this bill, an additional \$2 billion is authorized for these programs. And the total costs are projected to exceed \$22 billion.

As we continue spending more and more on ballistic missile defenses, let us not forget the most basic and most important element of these programs—making sure they work.

I wish to once again thank Gen. Malcolm O'Neill for his cooperation on this amendment. Also, special thanks to Mr. Phil Coyle, the President's testing czar, for his outstanding leadership, and for his help in seeing that the Pentagon practices Fly Before You Buy by testing new weapons before they are produced.

Mr. President, I thank the managers of this bill for accepting this amendment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COATS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. May I inquire if we are now prepared for morning business?

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business.

Mr. COATS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. COATS and Mr. PACKWOOD pertaining to the introduction of S. 1201 through S. 1218 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. PACKWOOD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

JAWSAT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to bring special attention to a cooperative satellite development program between the U.S. Air Force Academy and Weber State University located in Ogden, UT. Both institutions, I hasten to emphasize, Mr. President, specialize in undergraduate teaching and undergraduate research.

The Joint Air Force Academy-Weber State Program is known as "JAWSAT." The Air Force Academy satellite will be built by Weber State, which is the first undergraduate institution in the world to design, build, and launch satellites. Weber State began building satellites in 1990, and has launched them in low-earth orbits. The WEBERSAT is the product of the Weber State University Center for aerospace technology. The satellite continues to orbit Earth, providing invaluable learning experiences for the student managers at Weber State. Currently, WEBERSAT provides the students at the campus command center with such benefits as color photographs of the Earth, data acquired by a high spectrometer on the satellite, and information on micrometeor impacts that is derived from sensor equipment also aboard WEBERSAT.

It was a natural choice for the Air Force Academy to tap into Weber State's expertise for building and deploying a satellite to train our future Air Force leaders in satellite use and management. We, in this body, in the midst of a debate on Defense authorizations and appropriations, recognize the critical importance of satellite technology in defense systems employment. I especially commend both Houses of Congress for supporting JAWSATS.

Mr. President, this program is an example of the new directions that our universities are taking in bringing undergraduate training, education, and research to the highest possible levels of achievement. I thank my colleagues for their support of JAWSAT.

SMALL BUSINESS AND SUPERFUND REFORM

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I wanted to bring to my colleagues' attention the concerns of several prominent South Dakotans regarding the Superfund Program.

Like many of my colleagues, during the August recess, I spend considerable time back in South Dakota talking to my constituents. While in South Dakota, one issue came up on a number of occasions: Superfund reform. This issue is important to small business men and women throughout South Dakota. In fact, several South Dakota small business leaders just launched a new coalition, South Dakotans for Superfund reform. Recently, the coalition leadership's comments on Superfund, and an

op-ed from Rob Wheeler of Lemmon, SD, were published in local newspapers in the State. I ask that these articles be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. PRESSLER. We all agree that the current Superfund Program does not work. It is one of the most expensive environmental programs on the books. Despite the vast amounts of taxpayer dollars that are poured into the Superfund, the program has a very low success rate. One of the prime causes of this low success rate is a confusing and costly liability system. This system is unfair to small businesses and encourages excessive and costly litigation.

I am encouraged by the draft proposal drawn up by my esteemed colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SMITH. As chairman of the Superfund, Waste Control, and Risk Management Subcommittee, he has assumed the daunting task of rewriting the existing Superfund law. I look forward to working with him to create a new Superfund law based on fairness and common sense. We should not insist on a system that calls on small businesses that complied with past laws and regulations to shoulder the burden of cleaning up our hazardous waste sites.

I believe these newspaper articles represent not only the concerns of South Dakota small business leaders, but of all small business men and women across the country. They are the innovators who collectively make our economic engine run. For that reason, we must take these concerns to heart as we reexamine the Superfund Program.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Argus Leader (Sioux Falls, SD), Sept. 5, 1995]

MESSAGE TO CLINTON CLEAR—REFORM SUPERFUND PROGRAM

(By Rob L. Wheeler)

I attended the White House Conference on Small Business in June—one of about 2,000 entrepreneurs and business owners from across the country invited to Washington by the Clinton administration.

At the end of the four-day event, the White House asked us to put together a list of the most important steps the federal government could take to really help small businesses. One of the top recommendations may come as a surprise: overhauling the Superfund program.

Superfund was created by Congress in 1980 to clean up the nation's worst hazardous waste dumps. Fifteen years have passed since then and more than 1,300 Superfund sites have been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency. Over \$20 billion in government and private sector funds has been spent. But only 6 percent of those sites have been cleaned up completely.

With a record of failure like that, it's no mystery why the Superfund is nearly universally regarded—by environmentalists and business owners alike—as the single most ineffective piece of environmental legislation in history.

Why is the Superfund such a hazard for small businesses?