

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question occurs on agreeing to the conference report.

So the conference report was agreed to.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. What is the pending bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business will be H.R. 1158.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOLE. I now ask for the transaction of routine morning business not to exceed 15 minutes, with the Senator from Washington being permitted to speak for 10 minutes as in morning business.

#### CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I must rise today to support a program that some in this body may argue is unnecessary, but that the American people wholeheartedly support.

As we debate the very difficult question of eliminating funds to various agencies, it frustrates me that some of my colleagues blindly lump the Corporation for Public Broadcasting into a general pool of rescissions.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is a true public service, owned by the American people. What other Government program can we claim reaches 99 percent of all Americans?

Since 1967, CPB has developed public telecommunications services of the highest quality to serve the American people. All of us on this floor agonize over what serves the taxpayer most.

Certainly, public broadcasting has proven itself as a national asset supporting television and radio stations in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

Last year, CPB funded 351 public television stations and 629 public radio stations. Each week NPR touches the lives of 16 million listeners and more than 100 million viewers tune in to PBS weekly.

The numbers show that CPB is a Government program that works, and serves the people of this country. It is one program where the American taxpayer is actually seeing a return on their dollar.

But is CPB a luxury? In these days of deficit reduction, can we afford this service? In thinking about this question, I have reflected back on my role as a mother and teacher.

I am not independently wealthy and have been faced with balancing a checkbook my entire life. When times are tough, everyone suffers, but never have I sacrificed the education of my children.

All parents worry about the uncertain future of their sons or daughters. Frankly, that is why I am so committed to continued funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Education is at the heart of what public broadcasting does. CPB reaches almost every home, school, and business in America to make important learning resources available.

CPB is dedicated to helping and inspiring learners of all ages, in schools, at colleges and universities, at work, and at home.

Public broadcasting is not subsidized television but rather accessible education. More than three-quarters of the country's public television stations offer for-credit adult courses at various levels.

Since 1981, 2.8 million people have taken public broadcasting telecourses for college credit. Over 29 million students in over 70,000 schools receive public TV as an educational resource. Of the top 10 television programs used by teachers in the classroom, 6 are from public TV.

Sure, some may classify public broadcasting as entertainment. I even admit that I became absorbed in "The Civil War" and rushed home to catch "Baseball." But therein lies the secret of public broadcasting. Its ability to education while holding our attention.

From "The Electric Company" to "MacNeil-Lehrer," from "Carmen Sandiego" to "Great Performances," CPB has captivated audiences and provided an educational alternative to network television.

Children today need the same educational stimulation my children had access to, if not more so. Changing family structures and working parents mean more and more children are left home alone. These are the children dependent upon "Sesame Street" and "Barney" for guidance, education and solace. If there is no one at home to pull the kids away from the set, or to choose programming, can't the Government at least provide an accessible alternative which stimulates learning?

The average public television station airs more than 5 hours of quality, non-commercial children's programming every single day and 22.4 million children watch public television each week. The futures of these children can be dramatically shaped by the programs they watch each day.

Remember that 1 year of programming from PBS and NPR, costs each U.S. citizen just \$1.09. Less than a penny a day. In fact, CPB's entire annual budget equals what the networks

make in just 15 minutes of Super Bowl commercials.

More than 95 percent of CPB funds go back to communities nationwide as support for their broadcast operations. More importantly, for every \$1 of Federal funding directed through CPB, stations raise more than \$6 from other sources.

I urge my colleagues on their next visit home to tune in a publicly supported station within their State. Radio stations such as KPBX in Spokane and KFAE in Richland and television stations like KCTS in Seattle and KYVE in Yakima will prove to you how far a minimal Federal investment can be stretched.

Mr. President, the question here is should there be public television. My answer is a solid, loud yes.

Just as we have public schools, public libraries, public roads, and public parks, we should have public television.

"Public" means we, you, and I, own it. We have a say. We have input. We have access.

To only have private television means that those who can afford to own the airwaves will decide what we watch and who can watch. Someone else, someone with the wealth to afford it, will decide what opinions will be aired and whose words will be heard.

I believe it is imperative that the public have access and input to the airwaves.

Let us not be the Congress that is known as the one who took the public out of television.

Let this Congress be remembered for turning the tide on the deficit, but let us do so without sacrificing our children, their education and their future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

#### THE FOURTH ANNUAL FIREFIGHTERS CHALLENGE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, as a longtime supporter of our Nation's firefighters, I am honored to sponsor this resolution that will allow the Congressional Fire Service Institute to hold its Fourth Annual Firefighters Challenge on April 26, 1994, in the park across from the Russell Senate Office Building.

Widely regarded as the most exciting firefighting competition in the Nation, firefighters from as far away as California, Florida, and Ontario, Canada, are scheduled to compete in an event that demonstrates the level of fitness and conditioning essential for today's fire service.

Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, firefighters are on stand by—ready to come to our aid. These well-trained men and women are our first line of defense against fires and a host of other natural disasters. It is my

hope that this site will provide an excellent opportunity for the general public and congressional staff to learn more about firefighting and gain a better understanding of the rigors these genuine heroes face.

Mr. President, I hope we might be able to clear this, either during the wrap-up tonight or tomorrow—at least sometime this week. I will not introduce the resolution at this time until we have had it cleared on both sides of the aisle.

#### SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, let me say for the information of our colleagues, I have been talking with Senator DASCHLE, the Democratic leader, to see if there is some agreement we can reach on this supplemental appropriation bill. Right now I understand on that side of the aisle there are at least 70 amendments and on this side 27. That is almost 100 amendments. If we are to complete action on the bill and go to conference yet this week, today is Monday, we do not have a great deal of time. It was our hope to be in recess on Friday. I think the House also hopes to go out on Friday.

So, I have been talking with the White House. If they do not want to finish this bill, then they ought to let us know, because we may not want to finish the Defense supplemental. We are prepared to make the readiness argument with this President any time he wishes on why we need the supplemental appropriations. The President sent me a letter. I think I received it Saturday morning, and I responded Saturday afternoon to the President's letter.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent those two letters be printed in the RECORD at this point just so we would have a record made.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PORT-AU-PRINCE, March 31, 1995.

Hon. ROBERT DOLE,  
*Republican Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. LEADER: I am writing to urge you to take prompt action on the supplemental appropriations bill for the Department of Defense. I know that you and all Members of Congress have been working at a heavy pace the past three months and that you have many issues on your agenda. But I know you share the view that it is extremely important that the defense supplemental be addressed before Congress adjourns next Friday.

Both the House and Senate have passed defense supplemental appropriations to pay for ongoing contingency operations. I applaud those actions and agree with the Senate's decision to meet our full commitment to Jordan, in furtherance of the Middle East peace process, in this legislation. Unfortunately, these matters seem tied up in the Conference, and a deadline is looming that requires immediate congressional action to recognize the emergency nature of this supplemental bill and minimize offsetting reductions.

Secretary Perry and General Shalikashvili have repeatedly told me and have reported to

Congress that unless supplemental funds were appropriated by March 31, the readiness of our Armed Forces would be adversely affected. That deadline has not been met. As you know, Secretary Perry has told Congress that he will be forced to take specific actions that will impair the readiness of our forces if Congress fails to act by April 7. I realize the respective committees are meeting and are making some progress, but the Conference is still not resolved and time is very short.

I am also concerned about reports that the emergency defense supplemental may be combined with rescission legislation now pending before you. I know you will not permit the Congress to hold the readiness of our Armed Forces hostage to other debates. It is imperative that the Congress approve the supplemental before you adjourn for the Easter/Passover recess.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

U.S. SENATE,  
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER,  
Washington, DC, April 1, 1995.

The PRESIDENT,  
*The White House,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As you know, many of my colleagues in the Congress have long voiced concerns about the declining readiness of our Armed Forces and its impact on the brave men and women who so proudly serve. We have warned that the severe defense cuts imposed by your Administration compounded by costly "peacekeeping" operations, neither authorized nor approved by Congress, will drain the readiness accounts and strain our military preparedness. Indeed, these pressures have already manifested themselves in unacceptable readiness ratings for three Army divisions as early as last November. Further, I remind you that several of my colleagues began exhorting Secretary Perry and General Shalikashvili to send us their defense request as early as possible, but for some unexplained reason your Administration delayed that action until mid February with the submission of your budget. Our continued warnings have consistently fallen on deaf ears. Now that a severe readiness crisis is upon us, I am hard pressed to see this as the fault of the Congress. Your decision to blame the Congress for any delays and the impending readiness crisis is unfortunate.

Although we have been hampered by a laundry list of amendments offered by members of your party, the House and Senate have taken quick action on your defense supplemental request. The delay in submission coupled with Congressional desires to pay for these costs rather than add them to the debt has made our job more difficult. However, as you point out, we are now in conference and I am hopeful to bring final action before the Easter/Passover recess. As to whether the Congress will choose to combine your defense supplemental and your domestic supplemental request will be a matter that we will decide early next week. The readiness of our Armed Forces is important to all of us as is reducing the deficit, responding to emergency needs in California, and supporting the peace process in the Middle East. Your leadership on these matters would be useful in helping to limit the number of extraneous amendments offered and in bringing all of these issues to an early and acceptable conclusion.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE.

Mr. DOLE. It may be that the White House has no interest in the pending supplemental legislation. If they do not, I do not know why we are here,

why we are going to debate 97 amendments so certain people can score political points. On every amendment offered on that side from now on there will be a second-degree amendment. It seems to me that is about the only way to make certain both sides are protected here. Because we have had all this talk about how the Democrats are so concerned about children and we do not care about children, we are not sensitive to children. I wonder where they were on the balanced budget amendment when we asked just one more Democrat to vote for a balanced budget amendment so we might protect our children over the next 5, 10, 15, 25 years, but we did not have any response to the argument then.

So now we are seeing efforts to put a little back here and a little here, even though there are increases in all these programs, so the liberal press will write the right spin on the story that the Democrats are protecting children and, of course, we are depriving children of food and medication and about anything else you could believe. I am certain the liberal press will put that spin on it, as it always has in the past.

So it is my view there should not be anything else happening on the bill unless there is going to be debate on the primary amendment from that side, the amendment offered by the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, Senator DASCHLE, and the amendment offered by this side, by the Senator from Missouri, Senator ASHCROFT, and others.

I am prepared to get consent that we have the debate, time divided equally between now and 6 o'clock. Then at 6:15 we debate whether or not elephants can come to the Capitol. We may have to take a rollcall vote. But that will be 1 hour of debate, and the vote—we have not determined yet, hopefully it will not come until tomorrow morning.

I know the Senator from Massachusetts was here on Friday. He is here again today. He wants to offer his amendment even though I do not think it is necessary. I think we are all for the amendment.

But if it is offered, it probably will be second-degreed and then we will be right back in the same predicament we are in now. I hope the Senator from Massachusetts will let me and the Democratic leader try to work out some agreement where the Senator from Massachusetts would be permitted to offer the amendment. I do not have any problem with that. In fact, I support the amendment. So I do not want to be misunderstood.

Is there any way we could accommodate the Senator from Massachusetts and not offer the amendment today but let us proceed on the debate so at least we could have the debate? We are now working with the White House, with the Democratic leader, with our office