

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

to see—if we cannot get any agreement, then none of the amendments will pass in any event.

So I hope we could be permitted to have general debate equally divided between now and 6:15, by sponsoring of the two major amendments. And then at 6:15, the Senator from New Hampshire, Senator SMITH, will be recognized to offer his amendment on House Concurrent Resolution 34.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DOLE. I am happy to yield.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I say to the majority leader that I know the majority leader had said on Thursday evening that he was hopeful the amendment of the Senator from South Dakota would be up and he thought at that time it might have been disposed of on Friday. There was certainly no objection from me on that. I thought that was probably going to be the case. Now the Senator has pointed out that we have both the Daschle and the Dole amendments before the Senate.

I have indicated that I was quite prepared to just send my amendment to the desk, have it printed, and after we had disposed of the principal amendments of Senator DOLE and Senator DASCHLE, I would hope that we would be able to consider my amendment. But I would obviously respond to the request of the joint leadership in terms of working out an appropriate time. I am more than glad to do this, recognizing that we have a great deal of business before the Senate prior to the recess.

Mr. DOLE. If the Senator will yield, I understand the Senator will have it printed today but it will not be offered today.

Is that correct?

Mr. KENNEDY. I have talked on it quite a bit, Mr. President. I am not sure that I really have to take any more time on it. I would be glad to send the resolution to the desk. Obviously, it would be a matter before the Senate. I would like to get it printed. I would send it to the desk and have it printed, and then I would be glad to work out with the majority leader and the minority leader the time when we could consider it. I am more than glad to accommodate. If we wanted to do it at the conclusion of the other two amendments, that would be fine.

I can assure the leader that I do not think it will take any more than 5 or 10 minutes equally divided to dispose of it. I will be glad to give an assurance to the leader and to Senator DASCHLE that we would not consider it until after the disposition of at least the two current amendments. They really are the heart and the thrust of the issue here, and they are our first priority. I think they are enormously important, and we ought to consider them.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield further? The Democratic leader indicated to me that he was prepared to vote on the D'Amato amendment, which indicates that he must

have the votes to table. Would there be any objection to having it follow the vote on the D'Amato amendment, because his amendment was pending prior?

Mr. KENNEDY. I understand from the floor staff that Senator Daschle has indicated willingness to go to the vote on D'Amato tomorrow, and it is entirely acceptable to me to vote right after the D'Amato amendment on this amendment, if that is agreeable.

Mr. DOLE. The caveat, Mr. President, would be if we decided to pull the bill down because there are so many amendments. I do not want anybody to be blindsided. But it could happen, with 97 amendments, which would take quite a while, that we might just pull the bill down until after the recess. As long as the Senator understood that, I think we have an agreement. He could send it to the desk now, and have it printed with an understanding that following the vote on the D'Amato amendment, disposition of the D'Amato amendment, the Senator be recognized for a vote on his amendment.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I send the amendment to the desk, and ask that it be printed in the RECORD for the information of Senators.

It is my understanding that we will have the vote on the D'Amato amendment.

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

At the appropriate place in the amendment, insert the following:

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING TAX AVOIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should act as quickly as possible to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to eliminate the ability of persons to avoid taxes by relinquishing their United States citizenship.

Mr. KENNEDY. That is satisfactory.

Mr. DOLE. As I said, the only exception would occur—

Mr. KENNEDY. I understand what the Senator said. It could be withdrawn.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I think there is a serious effort by the Democratic and Republican leaders and the White House to try to see if we can bring this to closure. If we cannot, we will pull the bill down. If we can, we will try to finish it tomorrow evening. There is no way we can finish it with 97 amendments. That would take the rest of this week and all of next week, and I have something else planned for next week. In any event, many other Senators have plans for next week.

I wonder if it would be all right, between now and 6:15, the time equally divided.

I thank the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent—this has been cleared by the Democratic leader—that all time between now and 6:15 p.m. be equally divided between the Democratic leader and Senator ASHCROFT, or their des-

igneers, for debate on the Daschle and Dole amendments.

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

Mr. DOLE. I further ask unanimous consent that at 6:15, whenever the Senator from New Hampshire is available, during that timeframe, that we proceed to House Concurrent Resolution 34, and that Senator SMITH be recognized.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOLE. Morning business has expired.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. COVERDELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I would like to speak to the proposal that is before the Senate, and specifically I want to refer to a Reuter's news account that was issued this morning. I am going to read from the account. It says:

This administration believes a strong dollar is in America's interest, and we remain committed to strengthening the economic fundamentals that are ultimately important to maintaining a strong and stable currency.

That quote, Mr. President, is from our Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin. The story goes on, however, and says that the currency market did not pay any attention to our Secretary of the Treasury driving the dollar down to yet another record low against the Japanese yen. Since the start of the year, the dollar has plunged more than 13 percent against the yen.

The story goes on and says that America's bulging budget—bulging budget—and trade deficits to its shrinking savings rate is driving the currency lower, and Washington—that is us—seems unable or unwilling to do anything about it.

Mr. President, Chairman Greenspan recently called the falling dollar “unwelcome and troublesome.” He said just recently that “Foreign markets were increasingly distressed about the huge amounts of Washington borrowing to pay for deficit spending.”