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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You have created us to praise You. Forgive our pride that takes the place of praise in our hearts. So often, we want to be adequate in our own strength, to be loved by You because of our self-generated goodness and to be admired by people because of our superior performance. Pride pollutes everything; it stunts our spiritual growth, creates tension in our relationships, and makes us people difficult for You to bless. Most of all, our pride separates us from You, Dear Father. Life becomes bland, truth becomes relative, and values become vitiated. We lose that inner confidence of convictions rooted in the Bible and Your revealed truth. Now in this quiet moment, we praise You that You break the bubble of the illusion that with our own cleverness and cunning we can solve life's problems. You give us back our sense of humor so that we can laugh at ourselves for thinking that we can make it on our own. We humble ourselves before You and ask to be filled with Your Spirit. Now, with our minds and hearts firmly planted on the Rock of Ages, we greet the ambiguities of this day with the absolutes of Your truth and guidance. In the name of our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will begin 30 minutes of debate on two of the appropriations conference reports. At approximately 10 a.m., following the debate, the Senate will proceed to two consecutive rollcall votes, the first vote being on the adoption of the military construction appropriations conference report, to be followed by a vote on the D.C. appropriations conference report. After those votes, the Senate will resume consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill.

Last night, we were able to reach an agreement on a limitation of amendments to that legislation, and I hope that any Senator with an amendment on the list will offer the amendment early today so that we can complete action on this very important appropriations bill. Rollcall votes should be expected throughout the day and into the evening, if necessary.

I do point out that there were 38 amendments on the list that was worked out last night. I presume a number of them are place holders or would be offered depending on whether other amendments are offered. I hope we will not go through that exercise too long today and we can get on with the very serious amendments and vote on them so that we can move on to other appropriations bills.

I want to emphasize beginning today that I want to work in good faith with the Democratic leadership and with all of our colleagues to complete this appropriations bill and the remaining four. But in order to do that, it is going to take real cooperation. We have a limited number of days, and already I am getting the sneaking suspicion that there is a slow rolling process already being planned by the delay, by the lack of real progress yesterday, by the number of amendments. And if that is going to be the way things are handled, it is going to leave me with no option

other than to take serious actions, including forcing votes, which can be done, night sessions, even having to go into the weekend, or pulling down important bills.

Veterans and Housing and Urban Development, I do not think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to be held responsible for blocking or delaying unnecessarily consideration of a bill that funds the veterans programs and the HUD programs. So let us start off on a positive note. I think we struggled through that a little bit yesterday, but we are working together at this point.

We are going to continue to work to see if we can get an agreement on an Iraq resolution. There is a meeting at 10 o'clock on that. I hope we can go forward in a positive way and get our work done.

I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will turn to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 3517, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3517) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of July 30, 1996.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There shall now be 20 minutes of debate on the conference report equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair very much. We have been working very closely with my ranking member, Senator REID, from Nevada. He has one little duty to perform before he comes to the floor. I would hate to start without him here because we have worked so closely on this piece of legislation.

I will suggest the absence of a quorum until he arrives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring before the Senate the conference report on the military construction appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997.

Mr. President, the conference report is within the revised 602(b) budget allocation for both budget authority and outlays.

The conference agreement is \$850 million over the President's budget request. This amount is the same as what will be authorized in the armed services conference report. This conference agreement is \$1.2 billion under the amounts approved by the conferees last year.

Mr. President, I believe the military construction budget is not being adequately funded. We have never recovered from the reductions that were made in anticipation of the base realignments and closures.

I want to give the Pentagon fair warning. During this period of troop reductions and base closures throughout the United States and the world, we should have been dramatically modernizing our defense infrastructure.

It is no longer business as usual. We must address these mounting deficiencies.

I would like to mention briefly some provisions in this conference agreement. First, the conferees approved \$2.5 billion for implementation of the base realignment and closure decisions. This amount includes \$1.2 billion for the 1995 round. There is also \$776 million for environmental cleanup of these facilities. We have now funded the majority of BRAC requirements. Now we must make sure these funds are being correctly spent.

Mr. President, \$4 billion of this appropriation is for housing the families

of our military. This is 41 percent of our appropriation. I am happy to say this percentage is growing. It was 38 percent last year. We must address the quality of life issues we have ignored for so long.

Also, we have created a new initiative which will start to relieve some of the burden of providing adequate housing for our single soldiers. It is like Secretary Perry's efforts for family housing.

Mr. President, the conference agreement provides an additional \$185 million for the National Guard. This includes additional funding for planning and design. The Army National Guard especially needs this funding to properly execute their construction program.

I am confident that the President will not veto this bill. This bill includes funding for Incirlik, Turkey, where our Air Force has been flying the mission over the northern part of Iraq. Also, there is funding for Aviano, Italy, where our Air Force and Marines fly missions over Bosnia. We must all support our troops at this critical time.

There is one issue my colleagues should be aware of. We have tied funding for the Army programs overseas to the Army National Guard. For years we have directed the Army to start supporting the Reserve components. Each year they have chosen to ignore the direction of the Senate.

Mr. President, the appropriations conferees took a strong course of action on this issue. This year we have language which directs the Army to program \$75 million for the Army National Guard. Officers within the Army have suggested that it is only report language. They do not think they need to follow our direction unless it is in bill language. What they do not understand is that this body supports the citizen soldier. We know that we will call on them if we ever have to face another major conflict. The Army has not figured this out. I want to put them on record. The Army is going to have a difficult time, until they start supporting the Guard.

On a brighter note, we have included a sense of Congress which calls for the Secretary of the Army to name a new administrative facility, at Redstone Arsenal, AL, the Howell Heflin Complex. This is a small tribute to one of the great Senators of our time. I wish my friend well and hope he enjoys his coming years.

Mr. President, this is good bill. It is a bill that meets the demands of our national security interests. I urge the Senate to approve the conference action on this issue.

I now yield the floor and ask for the comments of the ranking member of this committee who has just been a joy to work with. We have worked on this a long time and, being very comfortable with the bill, I think it warrants passage. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it has been a pleasure to work closely with the distinguished chairman on this measure. We have had an open, bipartisan approach to the problems of family housing, Reserve and Guard forces, and the other matters in the bill. We have not had any significant disagreements. I believe that this is a good product, and I hope that the Senate will support it overwhelmingly. I thank at this time the majority staff director, Jim Morhard and his assistant Warren Johnson, for their work and cooperation with my staff, Dick D'Amato a member of the Appropriations Committee assigned to me to work on this and other appropriations matters. B.G. Wright also of the Appropriations Committee, also has made a significant contribution. I publicly commend Peter Arapis and Jerry Reed of my personal staff who have dedicated many hours to the completion of this legislation.

Mr. President, as I indicated, I am pleased to join with the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, Senator BURNS from Montana, in presenting this conference report on military construction for fiscal year 1997 before the Senate. Mr. President, I fully support the recommendations in this bill. I compliment the chairman of the subcommittee, the distinguished Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS], for his excellent work and that of his staff.

The chairman of the subcommittee and I have again this year, enjoyed an open and productive working relationship in bringing the recommendations in this bill to the Senate.

This bill, reported here today is \$1.195 billion lower than last year's appropriated amount, and is also \$50 million lower than the construction bill proposed by the House of Representatives.

Again this year, our bill strives to improve the quality of life for the Nation's military service members. This military construction bill emphasizes housing initiatives, both for families and improved housing for single service members. It provides \$4.1 billion for the construction, operation, and maintenance of family housing, and to the Homeowner's Assistance Program.

I would like to be able to say that spending this \$4.1 billion takes care of all the housing needs of our military, but it does not come close. We are going to have to continue working on that.

I add, Mr. President, in time of crisis, we rely heavily on the Guard and Reserve. During the gulf war crisis, we called upon the Guard and Reserve to bear more than their share of the burden, especially based on how we have funded them in the past. This year's administration request included no, I repeat, no major construction projects for the Army National Guard. This practice is completely unacceptable. Administration requests including no major construction projects for the Army Guard mandates that we seriously review any Member request for

its worthiness, and there are many worthy and badly needed projects, without which, our Reserve Forces could not continue to function. It simply would be unfair to not give them some consideration simply because they have been ignored by the Pentagon.

The committee continues to support the NATO Security Investment Program, however it is concerned that member nations are not properly helping to defray construction program costs. The committee therefore urges the Secretary to seek increased contributions from our allies. A requirement for preposition exists in Southwest Asia, however, we have no treaty relationships with our allies there. Although we should proceed with such projects, we should secure long-term bilateral agreements and assume full cost-sharing arrangements prior to the initiation of any construction projects in the region.

The subcommittee has added certain needy projects to the administrations request: \$850 million was added to the budget that would include \$220 million for Guard and Reserve projects, and over \$258 million in badly needed family housing.

I commend the chairman for taking the many requests from Senators to include projects in this bill. This is necessitated, annually, in large part, because the Department of Defense has again, as it has in the past, refused to adequately fund the construction projects for the National Guard, requiring the subcommittee to review many worthy projects suggested by Senators and the National Guard and to come up with a fair and equitable solution to the problem.

To have people come and say, and there are only just a few, come and say, "The Pentagon did not request it, how possibly could we be seeking money here?" We are doing it because it is the right thing to do, the only thing to do, and Senator BURNS and I greatly appreciate the support the subcommittee has received in our support for the Guard and Reserve.

The administration requested only \$7 million for Army National Guard construction, compared to \$137 million appropriated in fiscal year 1996, and that amount was well below the previous year's \$188 million appropriation. This is a 95-percent reduction in only 1 year. This type of request is incomprehensible and irresponsible. To help try to balance the scale, the subcommittee used strict criteria to evaluate many worthy projects suggested by Members, and a strong effort was made to take all Members' interest into consideration. We could not fulfill all the requests, but we did our best.

While no Senator that I am aware of has been fully satisfied, I think the result is as fair and equitable as possible, given the significant budget constraints that we are working under.

Again, I express my appreciation to the chairman of the subcommittee for

his fine work on this legislation. I again ask the Senate to overwhelmingly support this legislation.

Mr. DOMENICI. The pending military construction conference agreement provides \$9.982 billion in new budget authority and \$3.140 in new outlays for military construction and family housing programs for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 1997.

When outlays from prior-year budget authority and other completed actions are taken into account, the outlays for the 1997 program total \$10.375 billion.

This legislation provides for construction by the Department of Defense for U.S. military facilities throughout the world, and it provides for family housing for the Active Forces of each of the U.S. military services. Accordingly, it provides for important readiness and quality of life programs for our service men and women.

The conference report falls within the revised section 602(b) allocation for the Military Construction Subcommittee. I commend the distinguished subcommittee chairman, the Senator from Montana, for bringing this bill to the floor within the subcommittee's revised allocation.

The bill provides important increases over the President's request for 1997, and I urge the adoption of the conference report.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a table showing the relationship of the conference report to the subcommittee's section 602(b) allocation be printed in the RECORD.

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

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE SPENDING  
TOTALS—CONFERENCE REPORT  
(Fiscal year 1997, Dollars in millions)

Category	Budget authority	Outlays
Defense discretionary:		
Outlays from prior-year BA and other actions completed .....		7,204
H.R. 3517, conference report .....	9,982	3,140
Scorekeeping adjustment .....		
Adjusted bill total .....	9,982	10,344
Senate subcommittee 602(b) allocation: Defense discretionary .....	9,983	10,375
Adjusted bill total compared to Senate subcommittee 602(b) allocation: Defense discretionary .....	-1	-31

Note: Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with current scorekeeping conventions.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I wanted to take just a few moments to commend Senators CONRAD BURNS and HARRY REID, the chairman and ranking member of the Military Construction Subcommittee. The conference report for the fiscal year 1997 Military Construction Appropriations Act that has been put before the Senate is an excellent product. It protects the interests of the Senate, and more importantly, it addresses the needs of our men and women in uniform.

This conference agreement represents a compromise between the House and the Senate, and I am aware

that many items of interest to Members of both the House and the Senate had to be scaled back or deferred. Nonetheless, I am convinced that Chairman BURNS and Senator REID brokered a good deal for the Senate.

I understand that there are several projects which were supported by the Senate in both the appropriations and authorization processes that are funded in this conference agreement, but for which no funds are specifically authorized in the conference report filed by the Armed Services Committee. I am hopeful that legislation will be enacted by the end of this session which will clarify the position of the Congress that these programs should be considered authorized and I will work to that end.

Once again, I wanted to thank Senators BURNS and REID for their leadership on this matter and I urge all my colleagues to support this conference report.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for several years now, I have tried to restrain Congress' propensity to add hundreds of millions of dollars of unrequested, low-priority projects to the military construction budgets. I have tried to amend the military construction bills when they come before the Senate to strike these add-ons, but I have failed. I have tried to impose reasonable criteria for evaluating Members' requests for add-ons, and although the Senate agreed to abide by these criteria, there are still projects added that do not meet the criteria.

This year, Mr. President, is no different.

Since 1990, the Congress has added more than \$6 billion to the military construction accounts. That's almost \$1 billion in pork-barrel spending every year. This bill increases the amount of waste by another \$850 million. Where will we stop this endless pork-barrelling using taxpayers dollars?

When the Senate passed the military construction bill for fiscal year 1997, it contained \$700 million in unrequested funding. The House added \$900 million to the request for military construction, and I assumed that a conference agreement would probably split the difference between the bills. But I find, in reviewing this conference bill, that it contains \$850 million in unrequested funding. Apparently, in the interest of protecting as many Senators' add-ons as possible, the Senate conferees decided to go more than halfway toward the House position.

Mr. President, I am amazed to find that this bill even includes an add-on for Arizona. But that add-on of \$6.7 million is small potatoes compared to the magnitude of the add-ons for some States.

There were 13 States that received more than \$20 million in add-ons in this bill. Of those 13 States, 6 States received more than \$30 million in add-ons, 3 received more than \$40 million in add-ons. And one State received a whopping \$55 million in add-ons.

Mr. President, I am not going to take up the time of the Senate by listing all the add-ons in this bill. The information is there in the conference report, for those who care to review it. I will only say that I am shocked and saddened that, with the severe shortfalls in other high-priority military requirements, the Congress is wasting so much money on pork-barrel projects like these.

This is the same Congress that argued successfully for an \$18 billion increase in the defense budget over the past 2 years, principally because military modernization had been cut drastically by the Clinton administration. That is why I am puzzled that we waste nearly \$1 billion of this year's \$11 billion add-on for military construction projects.

While the Defense authorization and appropriations bills this year provide an additional \$6 or \$7 billion for procurement, this amount is only about one-third of the \$21 billion needed to meet General Shalikashvili's target of \$60 billion per year for procurement of modern weapons systems. We still have a \$14 or \$15 billion shortfall in urgently needed modernization funding. Yet we are wasting \$850 million on unrequested, low-priority military construction projects. It just does not make sense to me.

Mr. President, I mentioned the criteria the Senate adopted 2 years ago to evaluate Members' requests for military construction add-ons. I am somewhat gratified to learn that the close scrutiny focused on military construction projects has succeeded in forcing at least some degree of control on the process. The majority of the projects in this bill meet four of the five criteria established 2 years ago for Senate consideration of unrequested military construction projects. The projects are: mission essential; not inconsistent with BRAC; in the FYDP; and executable in fiscal year 1997.

But none of the projects meet the fifth criterion, which requires the added funding to be offset by a reduction in some other Defense account. And five of the projects in this bill, totalling \$23.7 million, are not even authorized, although I suspect political pressure will result in an authorization of each of them at some future time.

Mr. President, I know there are some very good aspects of this bill. It does provide funding for high-priority quality of life projects, including child care centers and family housing projects. It includes a provision which will give the Guard and Reserve components the opportunity to come to Congress with a long-term plan to meet their military construction requirements. For these provisions, I applaud my colleagues on the Military Construction Subcommittee.

But \$850 million is a lot of taxpayer dollars to waste. How do we explain to the American people why we need \$11 billion more for Defense this year, when we spend \$850 million for projects

that do little or nothing to contribute to our Nation's security?

I know this bill cannot now be amended, and my words will have little effect on the final vote on this bill. But I cannot stand aside and allow a bill laden with \$850 million in pork-barrel spending to pass the Senate without objection. I will vote against this bill, and I will urge the President to veto this measure when it comes to his desk. And Mr. President, I will continue to fight against the stubborn congressional tradition of wasteful, pork-barrel spending.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of unauthorized projects and the States receiving the largest benefits be printed in the RECORD.

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

*Unauthorized projects in military construction conference*

	<i>Millions</i>
Hawaii—Army aviation support facility .....	\$5.9
Kansas—Consolidated education center .....	6.7
Iowa—Aircraft arresting system .....	1.35
Louisiana—Bachelor enlisted quarters .....	4.8
Mississippi—Quaywall extension .....	4.99
Total .....	23.74

*States received largest share of add-ons*

[In millions of dollars]

Texas .....	55.983
Hawaii .....	45.58
Nevada .....	40.855
Virginia .....	34.969
North Carolina .....	34.21
Florida .....	30.248
Montana .....	27.2
New Mexico .....	27.1
Mississippi .....	24.7
Georgia .....	24.252
Kentucky .....	23.0
California .....	22.85
Indiana .....	22.0

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I will vote today in opposition to the military construction appropriations conference report. The conference report adds \$850 million to the President's budget request. Like its authorization counterpart, virtually all of the projects added to the budget request are the result of requests made by Members of the House and Senate.

I am gratified that some discipline has been adopted in this annual process in that added projects now meet what I consider to be minimal requirements like meeting a national security requirement and being in the Pentagon's 5-year plan. Nevertheless, I cannot support a process that results in hundreds of millions of dollars being added to the military construction budget based merely on Members requesting funding for those projects.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, as cochairman for the National Guard Caucus I rise to comment on the process of funding our Nation's military construction needs.

The Senate, in the past years, has voted to appropriate necessary mili-

tary construction funds to offset the neglect of administrations in order to make sure that the defense infrastructure would be adequately funded.

The Senate this year was again forced by the Clinton administration to make sure that the defense infrastructure would be adequately funded.

Active Force infrastructure has traditionally been adequately funded with the Guard Forces traditionally underfunded. Why has it been this way, many have asked, and the answer which is whispered through the Halls of this building is that the Congressmen and Senators will take care of it, and we have and we do and we will because we care about the welfare and readiness of the National Guard and Air National Guard even if some administration officials do not.

The administration this year funded the Army Guard to the tune of \$7 million, \$7 million for the entire Army Guard infrastructure for all 50 States and Puerto Rico; \$7 million.

For the entire Army Guard Force. If the Senators here respect our citizen soldiers, then they must rectify this shoddy treatment of those who protect us. My colleagues on the committee have done just that and they have done it with strict adherence to a rigorous set of standards for these necessary quality of life and readiness projects.

The committee considered each of the programs added to this year's military construction bill for its executability in fiscal year 1997, its being of the highest priority for the base commanders and National Guard tags, its inclusion in the FYDP, and its overall necessity to quality of life and readiness. Currently, this is the only venue we have to maintain infrastructure readiness and essential and housing projects which were designated as critical by each State's adjutant general. I urge all Senators to support the men and women of the Guard and support the Guard's ability to carry out its missions.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, how much time do we have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana has 4 minutes, 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. BURNS. Again, I thank my friend from Nevada for his support and contribution to this subcommittee this year. We could not have put this bill together without him and his staff. He is backed by an able staff that understands what is needed and how to get it done: Dick D'Amato, B.G. Wright, and Peter Arapis.

I also thank Jim Morhard on the committee staff, Julie Lapeyre in my office, Warren Johnson, and Mazie Mattson.

Mr. President, I know of no other further debate on this conference report. I think it is a fair and equitable conference agreement and I urge its approval by the Senate.

So, Mr. President, I urge the adoption of the conference report and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. BURNS. 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.

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

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I understand we have about 4 minutes left on the debate on the MilCon appropriations conference report. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all remaining time.

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

Mr. BURNS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the conference report accompanying H.R. 3517 will be laid aside.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous report, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 3845, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3845) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of August 1, 1996.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There shall now be 10 minutes for debate on the conference report equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring before this body the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriations. Needless to say, the city is having difficult times, and it is important that we expeditiously dispense with the conference report.

This report does not reflect my own views in each instance, nor the individual views of the Senate conferees. It is the result of true compromise with our colleagues in the House. The conference report provides for Federal funding of slightly less than \$719 million and overall spending of \$5.1 billion within the District of Columbia.

I regret that, again, this year the conference report dictates to the city how it will spend its own funds on controversial social issues. The conference report continues current law on subjects of both abortion and the District's domestic partners legislation.

Unlike the Senate-passed appropriations bill, the conference report provides that no funds, Federal or local, may be used to fund abortion except in the case of rape, incest or when the life of the mother would be endangered. Likewise, no funds may be used to implement the domestic partners legislation adopted by the District 4 years ago.

I am pleased, however, that these were the only divisive issues in the conference this year and that we are bringing the conference report before the Senate in early September rather than the following April, as last year.

The major budget differences between the House and Senate bills was the inclusion in the House bill of a deficit cap of \$40 million. Under the consensus budget submitted to the Congress by the council, the financial authority and the Mayor, the deficit was projected to be some \$99 million out of total spending of \$5.108 billion in fiscal year 1997.

The House bill permitted a deficit of only \$40 million, leaving it to the city to determine where the additional savings would be found. The conference report adopts a modification of the House proposal with a deficit cap of \$74 million for fiscal year 1997. This figure is roughly halfway between the House and Senate versions and represents the substantial progress toward a balanced budget that was called for in last year's legislation, establishing both the financial authority and the District's current budget process.

While not explicitly addressed in this legislation, let me state my own view that the budget which will be developed for fiscal year 1998 should also show substantial progress towards fiscal balance. While I can only speak for myself, I believe the budget deficit for fiscal year 1998 should be in the \$30 million to \$40 million range, not the over \$90 million deficit projected in the current financial plan.

Let me briefly touch on two other issues. First, the conference report largely adopts the city's consensus budget, and the architects of that budget—the council, the financial authority and the mayor—must be commended for working together to draft it. That budget process was sometimes bumpy, but no more so than our own.

Second, while we need to achieve a balance of this budget by fiscal year 1999, that fiscal balance will be very tenuous until we provide the District with help on issues outside the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee. My colleagues know that we cannot balance the Federal budget in the Appropriations Committee. That committee cannot balance the District's budget for very long either.

Once we have worked with the city's elected officials and the financial authority to squeeze every last penny out of the budget, I believe we will be faced with problems in entitlements programs, such as Medicaid and pensions, that will require Federal assistance to solve.

I thank my colleagues on the committee for their cooperation. Senator KOHL, my ranking member, has been of great assistance, a great cooperator, as has Senator CAMPBELL. I deeply appreciate the guidance and support from Senator BYRD and Chairman HATFIELD. I am deeply sorry that this marks the last appropriations bill I will manage during Chairman HATFIELD's tenure. I will miss his leadership. It has been extraordinary working with him, and he has been a comfort to me when I have faced difficult issues.

Finally, I wish to recognize the excellent work of the staff of the subcommittee: Terry Sauvain of the minority and Tim Leeth of the majority. Had Tim delayed his departure to the control board a few weeks, he would have sat here and had all kinds of praise heaped upon him for his almost two decades of service to Members of both sides of the aisle. Instead, he will have to accept our thanks from afar.

Mr. President, before I conclude, let me move on to the District of Columbia and its problems. The headlines have been speaking to us daily about the difficulties. Before we recessed for August, we already recognized that the city had water problems, and we appropriated in this bill a million dollars to try to help solve that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I yield another 2 minutes to Senator JEFFORDS.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I thank my friend. Also, I would like to mention the problems of the schools. We are well aware of them. The Senate tried to accommodate the problems with respect to the opening of schools, but we were unable to do so by the close of this last session. We are working very hard now, working with Senator KOHL and the House, to provide ways to fund the repairs to the schools without using Federal funds.

But I will also say, it is obvious we need to have the management of the school system looked at and dealt with, as we have with the city itself. Second, we have to keep them separate from school reform, which is also essential and necessary. We have set up a process for doing that. So I am hopeful by next year we will not have to stand here and defend the serious problems that we have in the D.C. school system today.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I request 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. KOHL. I thank you.