

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2266) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment to freeze military spending at the fiscal year 1997 level.

Mr. Chairman, simply put, we must not allow our rapidly growing economy and the recent budget deal to justify avoidance of the tough decisions needed to secure the long-term financial health of our country.

The current budget deal is just the first step in restoring fiscal health to our Federal Government. Congress must continue to look for opportunities to cut spending and we cannot justify spending any more on the military budget than our own military experts believe is necessary. Unfortunately this bill includes over \$500 million for continued production of the B-2 bomber—money that the Pentagon did not request. It also contains millions of dollars for building new nuclear weapons such as the Trident D-5 submarine launched ballistic missile and the Seawolf submarine.

We have been elected to have the judgment, common sense, and courage to make the hard choices necessary to achieve a balanced Federal budget. Freezing military spending would demonstrate our collective commitment to getting our Nation's fiscal house in order.

Equally important, it will set the stage for asking the American people to make sacrifices in other important budget areas. It is much easier to discuss the idea of shared sacrifice with the American people when we can assure them that all Federal programs and agencies are facing the same budget constraints. The American people know it's wrong to ask them to share the pain of balancing the budget when one part of the budget—the military budget—continues to increase year after year.

So the bottom line is simple and we should know it by now—if we are serious about balancing the budget, it is essential that every Federal program and Federal agency share in the sacrifice—including the Department of Defense.

We need to maintain a strong military and an absolutely credible nuclear deterrent force but we must maintain that defense while keeping in mind the realistic threats facing our country. As a cosponsor of this amendment, I am asking my colleagues to change the way they think about military spending in the aftermath of the cold war. Times have changed and I am hopeful that this amendment will help us move into the future.

Let's show the American people that we really are committed to fiscal responsibility and apply the same belt-tightening to the military budget that we have applied to the rest of the Federal budget. I urge my fellow House Members to vote for this bipartisan amendment and freeze military spending at fiscal year 1997 levels.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Pakistan on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their nation's independence.

Pakistan gained its independence on August 14, 1947, from the British, after 90 years of struggle to establish a homeland. In the 1930's, Dr. Allam Muhammad Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam helped provide the vision for the people of Pakistan's goal of independence.

Today, Pakistan and the United States share many common interests. We both seek to promote and preserve democracy. We both seek to ensure that south Asia becomes a stable and peaceful region of the world. We are allies in peacekeeping efforts, and in programs to combat illegal drugs and terrorism. And our ties, strengthened by trade and investment, continue to grow.

These ties have also been strengthened by the friendship and understanding brought to us by Pakistani-Americans. Pakistani-Americans have contributed greatly to the advancement of knowledge and the enrichment of cultural life in the United States.

With this anniversary, we should strive to renew our commitment to cooperation on issues of mutual interest. Let us use the occasion to broaden and deepen the friendship of the United States and Pakistan for the benefit of the people in our two nations.

The people of Pakistan have made great advancements towards democracy, stability, and peace over the past 50 years. It is a solid foundation on which to build a lasting commitment to these ideals in the future.

TRIBUTE TO POINSATTE MOTORS AND FORT WAYNE, IN, FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Poinsatte Motors of Fort Wayne, IN, and the city of Fort Wayne itself for their outstanding local effort in the fight against breast cancer.

On July 9, 1997, Poinsatte Motors served as the Fort Wayne host for the Drive for the Cure sponsored by BMW and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the Nation's largest private funder of research focused solely on breast cancer. The citizens of Fort Wayne and the surrounding area were invited to test drive any 1997 BMW. In return, for each mile driven, BMW donated \$1 to the Komen Foundation with the goal of raising \$1 million nationwide to advance breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment.

The community's response was overwhelming. Local businesses donated \$15,000 in TV and radio advertising, rentals, food and bev-

erages, and other supplies. With 284 test drives totaling almost 4,000 miles, Poinsatte Motor's Fort Wayne event ranks as the largest single-day event for Drive for the Cure to date. In fact, more than 360 people registered for the event—more test drives than could be accommodated in one day. Since July 9, remaining registrants, who have until December 1 to complete their test drives, have driven over 200 miles that will count toward Drive for the Cure's \$1 million goal.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that over 180,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and more than 44,000 will die of the disease, this year. If this horrible disease were detected and treated in its earliest stage, the mortality rate would decrease by 30 percent. In addition to raising much-needed funds for breast cancer research, Poinsatte Motors has contributed immensely to increasing awareness of the disease and the benefits of early detection. The people of Fort Wayne are well known for their willingness to assist others in need and to lend their support to a worthy cause. I am honored to represent these fine citizens, and I applaud them for their extraordinary accomplishment.

THE STATE RECIPROCITY IN PROFESSIONAL BOXING ACT OF 1997

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the State Reciprocity in Professional Boxing Act of 1997, a bill that ensures that professional boxers under suspension in any State will not be able to fight in a professional bout anywhere else in the United States. The bill is intended to close a loophole in the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, made compellingly visible by the disgraceful performance of Mike Tyson at the Las Vegas fight on June 28, 1997.

As we learned from our consideration of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, professional boxing is not only a brutal sport whose purpose is to cause serious physical harm to its participants; it has attracted corruption and organized crime influence for many years. Members who were responsible for shepherding last year's legislation, in particular Congressman MICHAEL OXLEY, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, and former Congressman Pat Williams, successfully addressed many of the most pressing problems of the sport. The country is particularly indebted to the path-breaking work by the Members of the House and the Senate who took the leadership in achieving the first comprehensive Federal legislation to protect the welfare of professional boxers and provide for appropriate oversight of the professional boxing industry.

I am introducing this legislation today because of the recent heavyweight match between Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas that stunned the world. Mr. Tyson viciously, deliberately, and inexplicably bit Mr. Holyfield's ear twice, during the third round of their heavyweight championship bout. On the second bite, Mr. Tyson bit off a part of the ear itself. Upon review of Mr. Tyson's actions, the Nevada State Athletic Commission unanimously disciplined him by revoking his boxing

license for a 1-year period and fining him the maximum amount, the sum of \$3 million on July 8.

Other States, however, are not required to honor Nevada's action. Under our legislation passed by the 104th Congress, States are required to recognize another State's decision to suspend a boxer only if the reasons for the suspension relate to a boxer's medical condition, poor boxing skills, failure of a drug test, or falsification of information. Thus, today, any other State may host a boxing match featuring Mr. Tyson prior to the expiration of his suspension if the State notifies and consults with Nevada Athletic Commission prior to granting approval. Mr. Tyson could conceivably fight in a boxing match somewhere else in the U.S. some time before his suspension in Nevada expires.

The legislation which I introduce today would unequivocally foreclose this possibility. I am proposing that in addition to the existing requirements of the Professional Boxing Safety Act, States must ensure that no boxer is permitted to box while under suspension by any other State due to the boxer's commission of a malicious foul or infraction. A malicious foul or infraction is defined to include intentionally biting any part of an opponent's body or extremities. It also encompasses some of the more common dirty tricks used by boxers, such as intentionally headbutting or hitting below the belt.

Most Americans would be appalled if they knew that Mike Tyson could conceivably fight somewhere outside Nevada within the next year. Many of us cannot imagine this possibility, but the fight game and its promoters are known for unacceptable and brazen actions. The legislation that I propose today ensures that no boxer will be allowed to fight in the ring after any State has imposed a disciplinary suspension on the boxer to punish the boxer's misconduct during a fight. It does so by building upon the comprehensive framework that Congress, with overwhelming bipartisan support, has already wisely enacted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 29th, I registered my vote on rollcall vote 338, final passage of the Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 2266. Unfortunately, I did not check the final result of the electronic recodation of my vote, and it ultimately was registered improperly. It was my intent to vote "aye" in support of passage of H.R. 2226 and in appreciation of Chairman YOUNG and the Appropriation Subcommittee's hard work.

A SALUTE TO VINCE LOMBARDI

HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a man who meant so much to the city of Green Bay, to the State of

Wisconsin, and to football fans across the Nation. I rise to honor Vince Lombardi, who coached the Green Bay Packers for nine glorious seasons. He is the Hall-of-Famer who put the "Title" in "Tittletown," by winning five NFL championships and the first two Super Bowls.

He defined success and dedication and pride because he put a premium on putting forth the effort to win. He once said, "If you'll not settle for anything less than your best, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish in your lives." That lesson still rings true today.

We are remembering Vince Lombardi today, because on August 5, our U.S. Postal Service will issue a new commemorative 32-cent stamp in his honor. I know we are certainly going to have a lot of newly interested stamp collectors in northeast Wisconsin next week.

I know I join all Packer fans in thanking the Postal Service for honoring Vince Lombardi.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE U.S. IMPORT DUTY ON FERROBORON

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation that would temporarily suspend, through the year 2000, the rate of duty applicable to imports into the United States of ferroboron. Ferroboron is the key raw material in amorphous metal electrical power distribution transformer cores. Transformers using these cores reduce energy losses and greenhouse gas emissions associated with these losses by 60 to 80 percent when compared to the other transformer core technologies. This is positive both in terms of increasing energy conservation and decreasing environmental degradation in the developing nations that present the most promising market opportunities.

While such benefits are tangible and significant, they and the extensive research and development that has yielded them come at a cost. An amorphous metal transformer has an initial cost 20 to 30-percent higher than the energy-wasting and environmentally unfriendly transformers it seeks to replace. Fortunately, because of its many benefits, the total owning cost of an amorphous metal transformer—over its 20 to 30 year life—is far lower than the initially cheaper competition. Reducing the cost of the end product's most important and costly raw material, by suspending the import duty paid on it, would further help ensure the cost-competitiveness of the end product in the export markets so vital to the product and the American workers behind it.

Furthermore, because there is no substitute domestic product currently benefiting from the present 5 percent duty rate on ferroboron, no adverse impact on the domestic ferroalloy industry is anticipated. I therefore urge my colleagues to support expeditious passage of this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2015, BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am committed to ensuring that the VA health care system has adequate funds to meet the health care needs of our veterans. Adequate funding for VA has long been an issue. As chairman and earlier, as ranking member, I have long advocated legislation to give VA new mechanisms to supplement the funding provided through the appropriations process.

My goals in this regard have included legislation to allow VA to retain money collected from third-party payers and legislation to allow VA to be reimbursed by Medicare when it provides care to certain Medicare-covered veterans. We have achieved success on the former, but more work needs to be done to give VA the opportunity to demonstrate that it can save dollars for the Medicare Program.

Current law permits VA to retain only the cost of its medical care collections. The remainder, constituting several hundred million dollars annually, must be deposited in the Treasury, in accordance with existing law. That policy fails to compensate VA facilities for the cost of care, and necessarily provides little incentive for achieving full recoveries or efficient collection efforts.

Our budget reconciliation bill effects a historic change in law by permitting the VA to retain money it collects from third parties. This important new provision differs markedly from the collections-retention proposal sent to Congress by the administration earlier this year. First, it specifically establishes a policy that all moneys collected will stay at the network level. With this provision, we create a powerful incentive for individual facilities to collect as much as possible with the knowledge that the funds will be used locally.

Notwithstanding the incentive associated with this new authority, however, many have expressed well-founded concerns that, for reasons beyond VA's control, collections could fall short of target levels. Such a shortfall could materially diminish VA's ability to meet veterans' health care needs. Mr. Speaker, these concerns prompted our committee to develop a contingency funding mechanism, which would be in effect for fiscal year 1998. In essence, the measure establishes a mechanism that would trigger what would amount to an automatic supplemental appropriation if VA collections fall short of Congressional Budget Office projections by more than \$25 million. These and other changes to the original administration proposal provide greater assurance that the new policy will foster veterans' interests, rather than place them in jeopardy.

I continue to believe that VA's medical care cost recoveries should supplement, rather than substitute for, appropriated funds. All in all, however, I believe that the third-party retention language passed by the House will help the VA to more effectively care for our veterans, and am extremely pleased that this measure is well on its way to becoming law.

I wish the same could be said for the straightforward legislation our committee developed earlier this session to demonstrate