

facilities of the Department of Defense (including Government-owned, Government-operated facilities of a military department) and shall assign such facilities the minimum workloads necessary to ensure cost efficiency and technical proficiency in peacetime while preserving the surge capacity and reconstitution capabilities necessary to support fully the contingency plans referred to in paragraph (3)."

GORTON (AND MURRAY)
AMENDMENT NO. 424

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. GORTON (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill, S. 936, *supra*; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1014. SELECTION PROCESS FOR DONATION OF THE USS MISSOURI.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The USS Missouri is a ship of historical significance that commands considerable public interest.

(2) The Navy has undertaken to donate the USS Missouri to a recipient that would memorialize the ship's historical significance appropriately and has selected a recipient pursuant to that undertaking.

(3) More than one year after the applicants for selection began working on their proposals in accordance with requirements previously specified by the Navy, the Navy imposed two additional requirements and afforded the applicants only two weeks to respond to the new requirements, requirement never previously used in any previous donations process.

(4) Despite the inadequacy of the opportunity afforded applicants to comply with the two new requirement, and without informing the applicants of the intention to do so, the Navy officials gave three times as much weight to the new requirements than they did to their own original requirements in evaluating the applicants.

(5) Moreover, Navy officials revised the evaluation subcriteria for the "public benefits" requirements after all applications had been submitted and reviewed, thereby never giving applicants an opportunity to address their applications to the revised subcriteria.

(6) The General Accounting Office criticized the revised process for inadequate notice and causing all applications to include inadequate information.

(7) In spite of the GAO criteria, the Navy has refused to reopen its donation process for the Missouri.

(b) NEW DONEE SELECTION PROCESS.—(1) The Secretary of the Navy shall—

(A) set aside the selection of a recipient for donation of the USS Missouri;

(B) initiate a new opportunity for application and selection of a recipient for donation of the USS Missouri that opens not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(C) in the new application and selection effort—

(i) disregard all applications received, and evaluations made of those applications, before the new opportunity is opened;

(ii) permit any interested party to apply for selection as the donee of the USS Missouri; and

(iii) ensure that all requirements, criteria, and evaluation methods, including the relative importance of each requirement and criterion, are clearly communicated to each applicant.

(2) After the date on which the new opportunity for application and selection for dona-

tion of the USS Missouri is opened, the Navy may not add to or revise the requirements and evaluation criteria that are applicable in the selection process on that date.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business will hold a markup on the HUBZone Act of 1997 and the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997. The markup will be held on June 26, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

For further information, please contact Paul Cooksey at 224-5175.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Youth Violence, of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, June 20, 1997, at 9 a.m. to hold a hearing at the St. Louis Fire Department Headquarters, 1421 N. Jefferson, St. Louis, MO, on: "Combating Youth Violence: Tracking Violent Juveniles and Targeting Adults Who Use Them."

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it was my pleasure last week to welcome back to Washington, His Excellency, Desaix Anderson, who has returned from Vietnam where he served for almost 2 years as our Government's Chargé d'affaires in Hanoi.

He worked very effectively to help establish a new relationship between our two countries and in the process created a bond of friendship and mutual trust that will serve us well as we build on that well-laid foundation.

He is now writing a book on the United States-Vietnam relationship and because of his experience and intelligence, I'm sure it will be an important contribution to our understanding of this unique subject.

Before he left he discussed his impressions of the current situation and recent events at a meeting of the United States-Vietnam Trade Council on April 7. It gives such an encouraging assessment of the possibilities for the future in that country Senators should take note of it.

I ask that a copy of Mr. Anderson's remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM—ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CHALLENGES, AND POTENTIAL

(Remarks of Desaix Anderson)

In the year and half since normalization, Vietnamese and Americans, working together, have laid the foundations for a totally different relationship between our two countries. While cognizant of our tortuous history of the past fifty years, our leaders agreed in 1995 to look to the future, to build on common goals seeking peace, stability, and prosperity in our nations and in the East Asia Pacific region. We realized that building trust and mutual confidence was the most important requirement to construct this new relationship.

On that basis we began to pick up the links of personal and non-governmental contacts which emerged and survived over the years, despite the estrangement between our governments, and to call on the goodwill which we have found to be widely flourishing in both countries, and to begin to construct the foundation for a friendly, contemporary relationship. To enjoy a normal relationship, that foundation has to be composed of hundreds of thousands of expanding networks not just between governments but between our peoples, as well.

So, I salute the US-Vietnam Trade Council, Virginia Foote, the NGO's, the Vietnam vets, the Vietnam Veterans Association, hundreds of American businessmen and women, the media, itinerant English teachers, universities, tour groups, the Vietnam-America Friendship Association, individual Americans, as well as the Government officials and leaders who have played their roles in initiating this new relationship.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All we have sought to do and accomplished fits nicely under the rubric former National Security Advisor Anthony Lake brought to Vietnam last July, in saying, "America's vision of Vietnam is of a strong and prosperous country, well integrated into regional and global institutions."

Hear the breadth of what has been going on.

We are cooperating diligently with the Vietnamese to account for missing Americans—our top priority—even as we work to find ways to strengthen further bilateral and unilateral efforts to reach successful conclusions.

We adopted for cooperation two important Vietnamese goals—strengthening health and education. The Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, with strong support from HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, are spearheading efforts contributing to Vietnam's health system. A CDC doctor will soon join the embassy staff to work full time on public and private health cooperation between our countries. The embassy, through some 30 Fulbright scholarships and 25 international visitor grants annually and the contribution of an American studies collection to Hanoi University, is strengthening bilateral educational ties. In addition, thirty or so American universities are working with Vietnamese counterparts to upgrade Vietnam's education system.

Our Agriculture ministries are cooperating closely to exchange information, develop policy alternatives, and promote exchanges such as the 18 upcoming Cochran fellowships for young Vietnamese to study in professional fields in the US.

FAA is working with the CAAV to upgrade security and safety at Vietnam's airports, looking to the day, soon we hope, to have daily flights between American and Vietnamese cities. A creative Vietnamese approach can facilitate this important goal.

Representatives from the Departments of State and Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Trade

Representative have initiated exchanges with DGPT/VVPT on the Telecom regulatory environment.

DEA, Customs, and State are all at work with Vietnamese counterparts in common purpose to stem illicit narcotics use and flow. The Secret Service is cooperating with Vietnamese authorities to stem crimes such as counterfeiting and credit card fraud.

USAID is helping to supply prosthetic devices and assist displaced children.

We have burgeoning cooperation in science, technology, energy, and the environment, involving some nine US Government agencies.

Military-to-military relations now consist of discussions of regional security perceptions and the exchange of visits.

Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in the US under the Orderly Departure Program or "ODP", and in January, we reached agreement on an arrangement called ROVR, under which certain Vietnamese returnees from SE Asian camps can be interviewed under ODP for possible resettlement in the US.

We are working at common purposes in multilateral fora—such as in the ASEAN regional forum to build confidence and promote peaceful resolution of disputes in the region. We also manage to discuss candidly and quietly some of the most sensitive issues of concern on each side.

Over 400 American companies last year promoted over one billion dollars in US-Vietnam trade in goods and services. US investment topped US 1.2 billion. By their association and employment by US companies, thousands of eager young Vietnamese are learning the way we think and do business in a market economy.

Finally, a Secretary Rubin and Finance Minister Hung this morning signed a significant debt agreement, overcoming this major obstacle to advancing our economic relations.

THE CHALLENGES

These developments should not be seen as fragile, but challenges to developing the kind of friendly, constructive relationship we envisage between Vietnam and the United States remain clear and formidable. We must overcome residual wariness, animosities and distrust in both countries. Vietnamese must trust that we have come with good will, have no ulterior motives or conspiracies to subvert or overthrow their system, and recognize that American economic activities support their own "DOI MOI" or renovation policy. Americans must recognize the extraordinary efforts Vietnam is making to help us in accounting for the missing from the war; continuing suspicion is misplaced. We must all put the past to rest and concentrate on the challenges and opportunities of the present and future.

I have noticed and welcomed the greater openness and diversity of Vietnam's society today than when I arrived. There is a commitment to developing the rule of law. The National Assembly and locally elected Peoples' Councils gradually are gaining stature as deliberative, representative bodies. I have observed more candid public and private debate on the burning issues of the day, and expansion of the amount and kinds of information available domestically and from abroad. There is a vibrant artistic scene, and the government has arrived at a formula for access to internet, albeit controlled. Private citizens are allowed to worship in their faith, have more latitude to make their own choices, and are travelling abroad for business and pleasure in increasing numbers. The result is a society taking on increasing complexity and verve.

Continuing and expanding these trends will help Vietnam's long term stability, eco-

nomics health and growth, and its ability to take full advantage of the genius of its people.

We can contribute positively to that process. Vietnam's dramatic change from a centrally controlled economy to rule of law and a market economy is still a work in progress. Vietnam's society will ultimately be shaped by economic growth, education, access to information including through a free press, extended interaction with the rest of the world, and, most importantly, its own culture and history.

To this end, we must get to know each other and be candid about our perceptions one of the other, always in a spirit of mutual respect and tolerance. Honest words may not always be so welcome, but it is important for each to understand what the other is about, what its values are, what its principles are, what it stands for; while tolerating valid differences in approach.

Finally, we are challenged to work in partnership to conclude economic normalization (a comprehensive trade agreement; MFN, EXIM, OPIC, and TDA) and a civil aviation agreement so that our societies can enjoy the kind of extensive links of which two such culturally rich societies are capable.

For us to realize the full potential of our relationship, Vietnam is challenged to move briskly to fulfill its self-announced policy goal of establishing a market economy; to this end, I would suggest the following:

(1) Rapid reform of the State-owned enterprise system, which currently sustains inefficient, uncompetitive enterprises, often oriented to import-substitution, and which diverts both domestic and foreign investment from potentially more productive uses. Effective equitization of State-owned enterprises would create the basis for a stock market, the necessary mechanism for realizing Vietnam's potential to mobilize its own domestic savings and absorb the considerable amount of portfolio investment available from abroad.

(2) Create a genuinely level domestic playing field for Vietnam's multisector economy, including equal encouragement of the private sector in which most new employment and growth has occurred.

(3) Open the trading and investment systems to require Vietnam's economy to learn competitiveness, perhaps the hard way, but looking to the long term, to avoid falling further behind its neighbors and putting at risk continued foreign investment.

(4) Accelerate opening of the agricultural sector to foreign investment, and liberalize the rice export market. Eliminating the state sector middlemen and their rents would raise income to the farmers from rice perhaps by 20 percent, and help curb the huge 30 percent losses to pests, rodents, spoilage and poor transportation which occur now because of the current export system. In one stroke such changes would raise rural incomes for the eighty percent of all Vietnamese who live in rural areas, reduce the rural-urban gap, and curb the dislocations resulting from urban migration.

(5) Accelerate reform of the financial system—including making available equity credit and credit for export financing.

(6) Finally, make the environment for foreign business more hospitable, transparent, and objective with clear avenues for dispute resolution.

THE POTENTIAL

Marking clearly Vietnam's intentions in these directions would accelerate conclusion of the US-Vietnam Trade Agreement and, through, MFN, provide Vietnam access to the huge US market for Vietnamese goods and trade—a prerequisite for getting on the fast track to "tiger status"—and pave the

way for another of Vietnam's avowed policy goals, accelerated entry into WTO. The complementarity of the US and Vietnamese Economies would ensure rapid growth of bilateral trade and investment, benefitting both sides; the US would certainly become one of the major investors in Vietnam's economic and human resource development.

We can anticipate increasing consonance in our strategic views of Vietnam integrates into ASEAN. There are generally no major disagreements in our respective national interests. The basis for cooperative efforts to seek peaceful solutions to transnational and other problems in the region already exists.

1.5 million Vietnamese-Americans ensure growing human contacts between our two countries. The opportunities for rich cultural, educational, scientific and technological exchange between our dynamic societies will inexorably be enhanced.

Finally, the spirits of our two countries can overcome the anguish of the past and we can enjoy the friendly, constructive relationship which our two peoples deserve.

I invite you all to share in such a vision. With the good will and commitment by people such as yourselves, a strong partnership between Vietnam and the United States is not just possible. It becomes probable.

Thank you.●

BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today the Budget Committee is scheduled to report out the budget reconciliation spending bill. Unfortunately, I was unable to be present for the final vote, but had I been here I would have voted "aye."

Several months ago I made a commitment to the graduating class at North Seattle Community College that I would be honored to be their 1997 commencement speaker. This commitment was extremely important to me and the graduating class, I simply could not back out at the last minute. Today's Budget Committee mark up was not finalized until last night.

I am extremely troubled by some of the provisions within the reconciliation package as I believe that they violate the bipartisan balanced budget agreement that was recently adopted. I am also disappointed that the committee will not have final legislative language and final CBO numbers on parts of the Finance Committee sections. It is difficult to understand why the leadership is in such a rush to complete action on major changes to Medicare and Medicaid. This rush to bring this bill to the floor does jeopardize our efforts to enact a balanced budget.

As we all know the Budget Committee cannot amend the reconciliation legislation. This will be done on the floor next week. At that time I will be supporting amendments that ensure this package is in compliance with the agreement and that it does not violate our commitment to our Nation's senior citizens and our children. We must seize on this unique opportunity to balance the budget, reform Medicare and expand health benefits for children. Unfortunately, as it stands now it does not appear that the current reconciliation language will achieve these goals.