

member, Senator INOUE, for accepting this very important amendment.

This chemical and biological sensor research program was specifically authorized in the Defense authorization bill which was overwhelmingly passed by the Senate last week. The Senate Armed Services Committee recommended, and the Senate approved, an increase of \$2 million in research and development funding for a joint service program to develop a prototype hybrid integrated sensor array for chemical and biological point detection.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's intent was to accelerate the development of small sensors which would detect, in real time, the presence of chemical or biological agents. These sensors would be based on metal oxide and biochemical film technologies. In its report, the Senate Armed Services Committee emphasized its support for this program and for expanding the knowledge in military relevant fields of chemical and biological research. Our soldiers in the field need this technology to protect them from the possible threat presented by chemical and biological agents.

Mr. President, I have reviewed the fiscal year 1998 Department of Defense appropriations bill which we are considering here in the Senate, and it is unclear as to whether the funding for this program, which was included in the Defense authorization bill, has sufficient appropriations. My intent, with this amendment, is to make clear that this bill appropriates funds for this very important program.

Mr. President, the threat from chemical and biological weapons that faces our Nation's troops is very real and very dangerous. During the Persian Gulf war, we witnessed just how dangerous the threat of chemical and biological weapons was during that crisis and how this threat continues today.

We must also consider the fact that chemical and biological weapons may also be a potential weapon of choice for use by terrorists. Continued research and development in the area of sensor development must continue in this field to counter these very real threats.

There is an urgent need to have effective chemical and biological weapon sensors that can detect the presence of these weapons in real-time or near-real-time. The Department of Defense needs to rapidly develop these kinds of sensors, and that is the intent of this amendment.

This amendment does not seek to go beyond the authorized funding amount. It seeks merely to insure that the program which the Senate has voted to authorize is fully funded in this bill. I thank my colleagues for their support of this amendment.●

EXECUTIVE BRANCH POLITICAL APPOINTEES

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, as many in this body know, I have been

concerned that while the total number of Federal employees has been reduced in recent years, the same cannot be said of executive branch political appointees.

Indeed, between 1980 and 1992 the number of political appointees grew 17 percent, three times as fast as the total number of executive branch employees.

Mr. President, let me emphasize that political appointees play a vital role in implementing those very policies for which an administration is elected in the first place. Political appointees often also bring backgrounds rich in experience as well as a fresh perspective that can strengthen our Government.

But as many distinguished observers have noted, too many political appointees may actually interfere with the efficient and effective implementation of administration policies. Author Paul Light has documented this problem in his book "Thickening Government: Federal Government and the Diffusion of Accountability."

Various public commissions and Government watchdog groups have also voiced concerns from the 1989 National Commission on Public Service, chaired by Paul Volcker, to the Congressional Budget Office, and most recently the Twentieth Century Fund Task Force on the Presidential Appointment Process, chaired by two former Members of this body, former Senators John Culver and Charles Mathias.

Mr. President, I have introduced legislation to cap the number of political appointees at 2,000, a level which represents a reduction of about 30 percent from current levels. That proposal is identical to the recommendation of both the Volcker Commission and the Twentieth Century Fund Task Force, and also mirrors a proposal by the Congressional Budget Office which is included in their publication of spending and revenue options to reduce the deficit. My bill would save taxpayers over \$330 million during the next 5 years. Just as important, bringing the number of political appointees to a more manageable level will enhance flexibility and increase the ability of the President to implement administration policies.

Mr. President, this administration has a commendable record in bringing the overall growth of the Federal employees under control, and, in fact, beginning to reduce the number by several hundred thousand.

And recently, I was encouraged to see that work also began with respect to political appointees in the Commerce Department, an agency where the growing number of appointees has been a particular concern.

Mr. President, while I believe we have a long way to go in this area, there has been some progress made by the administration and I will not offer my legislation as an amendment to this particular bill as I have in the past.

I firmly believe further work is needed in this area, however, and I will be

following the progress made by the administration in reducing the number of political appointees with great interest.●

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF FLIGHT 800

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise in remembrance of the 228 victims of the TWA airline crash off the Long Island coast which occurred just 1 year ago today. In that accident, the community of Montoursville, PA, lost 16 of its young citizens—students from the local high school who were traveling abroad as members of the school's french club—and 5 adult chaperones.

While its cause remains unknown, I believe it is critical that our remembrance of the accident not be defined by this uncertainty, difficult as it is for those who mourn the death of family and friends. Because we do know, with certainty, what we lost: sons, daughters, classmates, as well as mothers, fathers, and neighbors. We know of their contributions to their communities, schools, and professions. We know, especially in the cases of the youngest victims, of their promise and of their vitality. We know of their importance in the lives of their families. It is with this sure knowledge of who the victims were and of what they did in their lives that we should remember them.

The loss of the young Pennsylvania students—and all the members of that flight—to unexplained tragedy is terrible to bear. I know that the Montoursville students were the pride of their community. Responsible and accomplished students, cherished sons and daughters, they undertook the much-anticipated trip to France with gratitude, excitement and hope. By remembering them in this way perhaps we will always somehow know their presence in our lives.●

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY—TWA FLIGHT 800

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, one year ago today, I spent the morning in a hearing on aviation safety arguing with the head of the Federal Aviation Administration that we needed higher safety standards and better safety inspections. We finished with the hearing at about the same time 230 people began to prepare for a flight to Paris.

As with most flights, I am sure that some people were a little nervous, while others were delighted to be on board and away from the heat and congestion in New York. Shortly after 8:30 p.m., the lives of the 230 people and their families changed forever.

Terrorism was the first focus of the National Transportation Safety Board, FBI, and others. It was, and remains, incredible that a perfectly able aircraft, with an experienced crew, would just explode. Yet it happened.

To the family of Matt Alexander, July 17 will always remain a tragic

memory. Matt was from Florence, South Carolina. He was a student at Wake Forest, going to spend a semester in France.

I want to make sure that the families of the victims realize that their losses have not been, and will not be, forgotten. Aviation safety changes will occur that are the direct result of the crash. While new safety measures cannot bring back loved ones, they can help prevent future losses.

We already have put in place new procedures to assist the families following aviation disasters. A Federal task force created as part of the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 continues to examine ways to make sure that families get needed information, assistance, and privacy following a disaster. None of this will bring back people like Matt, but we can make the process a more humane one.●

1997 MID YEAR REPORT

The mailing and filing date of the 1997 Mid Year Report required by the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended, is Thursday, July 31, 1997. All Principal Campaign Committees supporting Senate candidates must file their reports with the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116. Senators may wish to advise their campaign committee personnel of this requirement.

The Public Records Office will be open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. on the filing date for the purpose of receiving these filings. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Public Records on (202) 224-0322.

REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 1997 second quarter mass mailings is July 25, 1997. If

your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records Office on (202) 224-0322.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 21, 1997

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, July 21st.

I further ask that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, the Senate then immediately proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that at 3 p.m., the Senate begin consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill.

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

Mr. STEVENS. I further ask unanimous consent at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, the Senate resume consideration of S. 1023, the Treasury and General Government appropriations bill, with a series of votes occurring on the remaining pending amendments, including a vote on final passage of this bill, S. 1023.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. STEVENS. For the information of all Members, Monday from noon

until 3 p.m., the Senate will be in a period of routine morning business. By previous order, at 3 p.m., the Senate will begin consideration of the HUD-VA appropriations bill. Under the previous order, at 5:15 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1023, the Treasury and General Government appropriations bill, with a series of votes occurring on the remaining pending amendments to the bill, including final passage of S. 1023. Following passage of the Treasury and General Government appropriations bill, the Senate will resume consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill. As a reminder to all Members, the Senate will not be in session on Friday. The next rollcall will be a series of votes, commencing at 5:15 on Monday afternoon.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 21, 1997

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:25 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 21, 1997, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 17, 1997:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FELIX GEORGE ROHATYN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO FRANCE.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 17, 1997:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOEL I. KLEIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.
ERIC H. HOLDER, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL.