

is a year-long training program in which minority students will be selected by the participating universities to work on-site for one school year during the selection and conservation of the art work.

This is one of those grants that is going to Massachusetts—yes, it is, but its scope and audience and impact is national. And the funds were matched on a 3-to-1 basis.

I believe that this grant is not only defensive but also commendable. And I think those that have criticized this grant as an elitist grant will take a second look.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 10:45 having arrived, the Senate will now proceed to consideration of the conference report that accompanies H.R. 2016, 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. 2016) having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by all of the conferees.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 9, 1997.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 5 minutes' debate each for the Senator from Montana, the Senator from Washington, and the Senator from Arizona.

The distinguished Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BURNS. I am pleased to bring before the Senate the military construction conference report for fiscal year 1998.

Mr. President, this conference report was passed by the House of Representatives yesterday by a vote of 413 to 12 and sent to the Senate last night. Now it awaits final passage here.

Mr. President, we worked very hard with our House colleagues to bring this military construction conference to a successful conclusion. Both sides did take a little bit different perspective on the allocation of military construction funding for the Department of Defense, but in the final conference report we met our goals of promoting the quality of life, other initiatives, and enhancing the mission for readiness.

Mr. President, this bill has some points I want to highlight. It provides a total of \$9.2 billion for military construction. Even though this is an increase of \$800 million over the President's budget for fiscal year 1998, it is still a reduction of \$600 million from what was appropriated just a year ago. That is an overall reduction of 6 percent.

Some 42 percent of this bill is allocated to family housing, for a total of

\$3.9 billion, so this includes new construction, improvement in existing housing, and funding for operation and maintenance of housing.

The base realignment and closure part of the bill accounts for 23 percent of our total funding, about \$2.1 billion. Yes, there is talk of another round of BRAC, and I want to tell my colleagues that base closure does take up a lot of funds. This encompasses funding for environmental cleanup of the closing of those bases and for the construction of new BRAC-related facilities.

Mr. President, I continue to be concerned about the growing cost of the environmental cleanup of our BRAC installations. These costs frequently continue long after the base is closed. In some way or another we have to get a handle on that cost. But right now it seems like it is almost impossible to do.

We strongly protect the quality-of-life initiatives. We provide \$724 million for barracks, \$32 million for child development centers, \$163 million for hospital and medical facilities.

We provide a total of \$640 million for guard and reserve components, a reduction of \$100 million from the Senate-passed bill. Overall, this represents an increase of \$290 million from the President's budget request. Many of those projects will enhance our readiness and mission capabilities of our reserve and guard forces. I have to say, they are vital in the overall national defense scheme. It seems like every year when the budget comes down from the administration, those two parts of our military complex are forgotten about.

I thank my ranking member, Senator MURRAY of Washington State, for her assistance and support through this process. She and her staff have been extremely cooperative. I also want to commend our colleagues in the House, because we went through the conference, and I think it is a good lesson on get your work done before you go and it makes it a lot easier when coming to an understanding and bringing all the minds together.

I commend this product to the Senate. I recommend that it be signed by the President without modification.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am pleased to strongly support and recommend to the Senate this military construction appropriations conference report. The final amount, \$9.18 billion, is slightly below the Senate-passed amount, and is about \$800 million above the budget request. Nevertheless, it is a frugal bill, some \$600 million, or 6 percent below last year's appropriated amount.

We have added \$800 million to the bill to correct what the subcommittee perceived to be serious shortfalls in quality-of-life initiatives particularly housing and also including child care centers and medical facilities, as well as what has been the annual shortchang-

ing of our guard and reserve forces. In particular, the budget request was for approximately \$172 million for our guard and reserve forces, and the conference result was about \$460 million, some \$290 million over the request. I would point out that the Senate conferees reduced the Senate-passed figure for our guard and reserve forces by over \$100 million in order to reach an acceptable compromise with the House.

In the housing area, the conferees added some \$210 million over the requested amount, for a total of \$3.9 billion, or 42 percent of the total bill. Even so, the committee ended up approximately \$250 million below last year's appropriated amount.

Furthermore, the committee worked to satisfy the request of Senators on both sides of the aisle for worthy projects that were not included in the request, and I believe we ended up with a very balanced recommendation.

I do hope that the President will support the bill as passed, and not disturb the balance that we carefully constructed to satisfy the needs of our Nation from coast to coast.

Mr. President, I would point out to my colleagues that the conference report protected all the design, minor construction, and reporting initiatives that we included in the Senate report, so my colleagues may be assured that those initiatives which were included in the Senate report have been preserved.

Fully 23 percent of the bill is for the base realignment and closure accounts, and we have included \$153 million for NATO initiatives. I would point out, however, that the Senate report includes a requirement for a report on future costs of NATO expansion, as well as a burden-sharing report regarding our initiatives in Southwest Asia. The committee expects these requirements to be taken seriously and to have a full report from the Department of Defense on these matters.

I am particularly pleased that the conference was able to retain the funding that we included in the Senate-passed bill for new quality-of-life initiatives in Washington, in particular a new library/education center at Fairchild Air Force Base, a barracks replacement at Fort Lewis, health clinics at Fort Lewis and Everett Naval Station, an expansion of an important dining facility and a new child development center at Bremerton Naval Shipyard, and housing at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station.

I thank the distinguished Senator from Montana, Senator BURNS, for the excellent cooperation that he has extended to me throughout this process. I want to thank him for all of his courtesies and for the congenial and cooperative way that his staff, particularly Ms. Ashworth, has extended to all of us. We have enjoyed working with them and all their staff. And I thank Dick D'Amato, from my staff, and Ben McMakin for a job well done.

I commend this product to the Senate and to the President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana has 1 minute 9 seconds remaining.

Mr. BURNS. I reserve the remainder of my time.

Senator MCCAIN wanted to make a statement on this bill, and I understand he is on his way. As a courtesy to him, I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for approximately 6 minutes.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ron Moranville, a fellow working on my staff, be granted privileges during the debate of H.R. 2016.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. For 5 straight years, President Clinton has submitted a defense budget to Congress that reflects the low priority given by this administration to our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. For the past 3 years the Republican Congress has added over \$20 billion to the administration's requests in order to provide the resources necessary to ensure the readiness of our forces to protect our Nation's security.

I fully supported the congressional add-ons for national defense because I have seen the dangerous effects of declining defense budgets on military modernization and readiness.

However, I simply cannot support the diversion of nearly \$1 billion of the \$2.6 billion added this year for unrequested, low-priority military construction projects.

This conference agreement on fiscal year 1998 military construction spending earmarks funding for 129 building projects totaling \$941 million. This figure includes a plus-up of \$268 million for National Guard and Reserve projects, including 12 Reserve centers.

I ask unanimous consent to have that list printed in the RECORD.

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

FISCAL YEAR 1998 CONFERENCE REPORT, APPROPRIATIONS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ADD-ONS

(Dollar amounts in millions)

State and installation	Project title	Budget request	Change	Appropriated
Alabama:				
Maxwell AFB	Maint Facility	\$0	\$9.3	\$9.3
Redstone Arsenal	Engineering Annex	0	13.0	13.0
Dannelly Field ¹	Munitions Complex	0	4.8	4.8
Alaska:				
Eielson AFB	Water Storage Upgrade	0	6.0	6.0
Elmendorf AFB	Electrical System Upgrade	0	6.1	6.1
Bethel ¹	Army Guard OPS Facility	0	4.6	4.6
Arizona:				
MCAS Yuma	Bachelor Enlisted Quarters	0	12.3	12.3
Luke AFB	Land Acquisition	0	10.0	10.0
Arkansas:				
Little Rock AFB	Control Tower	0	3.4	3.4
Pine Bluff	Ammunition Facility	0	10.0	10.0
California:				
Fort Irwin	Live Fire Control Facility	0	2.7	2.7
Fort Irwin	Rotational Wash Point	0	8.5	8.5
MCB Camp Pendleton	Enlisted Quarters	0	16.1	16.1
MCB Camp Pendleton	Child Development Center	0	4.5	4.5
NAB Coronado	Waterfront OPS Building	0	10.1	10.1
NCBC Port Hueneme	Storm Water Runoff Improvements	0	3.2	3.2
Sacramento ¹	USARC/OMS/AMSA	13.1	7.9	21.0
Fresno Air Terminal ¹	Base Supply Complex	0	7.0	7.0
Psadena ¹	Reserve Center	0	6.7	6.7
Colorado:				
Fort Carson	Rail Yard Expansion	0	16.0	16.0
Greeley ¹	Mobile Ground Maint Complex	0	4.7	4.7
Connecticut: New London	Child Development Center	0	3.7	3.7
Delaware: New Castle Airport ¹	OPS Facility	0	7.0	7.0
Florida:				
NAS Whiting Field	Runway Upgrades	0	1.3	1.3
NS Mayport	Pier Improvements	0	17.9	17.9
MacDill AFB	Child Development Center	0	3.4	3.4
MacDill AFB	Education Center	0	4.8	4.8
Georgia:				
Fort Stewart	Barracks Complex Renewal	0	11.5	11.5
Moody AFB	HH-60 OPS Facility	0	6.8	6.8
Robbins AFB	Physical Fitness Center	0	9.1	9.1
Hawaii:				
Fort Derussey	Asian Pacific Center	0	9.5	9.5
Pearl Harbor NS	Seal Delivery System	0	7.4	7.4
Bellows AFB ¹	Army Guard Training Facility	0	5.2	5.2
Idaho:				
Mountain Home AFB	B-1B Avionics Bldg	0	9.2	9.2
Mountain Home AFB	F-15 OPS Facility	0	3.8	3.8
Boise Air Terminal ¹	C-130 OPS Facility	0	8.8	8.8
Indiana:				
NSWC	CHEM-BIO Warfare Center	0	4.1	4.1
Grissom ARB	Civil Engineering Complex	0	8.9	8.9
Kansas:				
McConnell AFB	Transportation Complex	0	5.0	5.0
McConnell AFB	Child Development Center	0	2.9	2.9
McConnell AFB ¹	Maint Shop	0	2.0	2.0
Kentucky:				
Fort Knox	Training Range	0	7.2	7.2
Fort Campbell	Education Center	0	6.7	6.7
Fort Campbell	Tactical Equip Shop	0	9.9	9.9
Greenville ¹	Training Range (Phase III)	0	3.6	3.6
Louisiana:				
Camp Beauregard ¹	Machine Gun Range	0	1.3	1.3
NAS New Orleans ¹	Engineering & Comm Complex	0	5.9	5.9
NAS New Orleans ¹	Enlisted Quarters	0	4.5	4.5
NAS New Orleans ¹	Physical Fitness Center	0	3.6	3.6
Maine:				
Bangor IAP ¹	Upgrade Base Facilities	0	6.5	6.5
Maryland:				
NAVELEX St. Inigoes	Maint Hangar	0	2.6	2.6
Annapolis ¹	Army Guard Readiness Center	0	2.9	2.9
Massachusetts:				
Barnes ANGB ¹	Dining Hall/Fitness Center	0	3.0	3.0
Westover ARB	Building Renovation	0	4.1	4.1
Michigan:				
Augusta ¹	Army Guard Readiness Center	0	6.4	6.4
Selfridge AGB ¹	Air Guard Maint Complex	0	9.0	9.0

FISCAL YEAR 1998 CONFERENCE REPORT, APPROPRIATIONS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ADD-ONS—Continued

[Dollar amounts in millions]

State and installation	Project title	Budget request	Change	Appropriated
Minnesota: Minneapolis IAP ¹	Civil Engineering Complex	0	4.6	4.6
Mississippi:				
Army Ammo Plant	OPS and Maint Facility	0	9.9	9.9
Gulftort-Biloxi	Training Quarters	0	9.5	9.5
Nas Meridian ¹	Enlisted Quarters	0	7.0	7.0
Key Field ¹	KC-135 Sim Training Center	0	2.0	2.0
Key Field ¹	Dining Hall	0	3.2	3.2
Senatoba ¹	Army Guard Readiness Center	0	4.4	4.4
Missouri:				
Fort Leonard Wood	Fire Station	0	3.2	3.2
Macon ¹	Armory	0	3.2	3.2
Montana:				
Malmstrom AFB	Dining Facility	0	4.5	4.5
Billings ¹	Army Guard Reserve Center	0	15.0	15.0
Nevada:				
Nellis AFB	Maint Facility	0	2.0	2.0
Reno/Tahoe IAP ¹	C-130 Aerial Port	0	3.0	3.0
New Jersey:				
Fort Monmouth	Fire Station	0	2.0	2.0
McGuire AFB	Large Fire Station	0	8.8	8.8
New Mexico:				
White Sands Range	Launch Complex	0	6.9	6.9
Kirtland AFB	Sim Training Facility	0	14.0	14.0
Kirtland	Bridge Replacement	0	6.3	6.3
New York:				
Fort Drum	Gunnery Range (Phase I)	0	9.0	9.0
Fort Drum	Training and Education Center	0	6.9	6.9
Stratton ANG ¹	Support Complex	0	7.5	7.5
Niagara Falls IAP ¹	Training Facility	0	2.1	2.1
North Carolina:				
Fort Bragg	Mountain Training Complex	0	7.9	7.9
Fort Bragg	Barracks Renewal	0	9.8	9.8
Fort Bragg	SOF Medical Training Barracks	0	8.3	8.3
Pope AFB	Family Services Center	0	2.6	2.6
North Dakota:				
Minot AFB	Fire/Crash Rescue Station	0	5.2	5.2
Ohio:				
Wright-Patterson	Child Development Center	0	8.6	8.6
Rickenbacker ANG ¹	Corrosion Control Facility	0	5.7	5.7
Springfield ANG ¹	Base Supply Complex	0	5.5	5.5
Oklahoma:				
Fort Sill	Barracks Renewal	0	8.0	8.0
Altus AFB	Land Purchase	0	11.0	11.0
Vance AFB	Base Engineering Complex	0	6.7	6.7
Will Rogers Airport ¹	Training Facility	0	3.1	3.1
Pennsylvania:				
Johnstown ¹	Reserve Hangar	0	14.0	14.0
Oakdale ¹	Maint Support Activity	0	6.0	6.0
South Carolina:				
Leesburg ¹	Simulation Center	0	3.8	3.8
McEntire ANG ¹	Dining Facility	0	7.0	7.0
MCAS Beaufort	Enlisted Quarters	0	15.3	15.3
MCAS Beaufort	Vehicle Maint Shop	0	2.4	2.4
South Dakota:				
Ellsworth AFB	Fire/Crash Rescue Station	0	6.6	6.6
Rapid City ¹	Aviation Support Facility	0	5.2	5.2
Tennessee:				
Arnold AFB	Air Dryer Facility	0	9.9	9.9
Knoxville	USARC/OMS/AMSA	0	8.3	7.9
Nashville Map ¹	Maint Complex	0	3.4	3.4
Texas:				
Fort Bliss	Ammunition Supply Expansion	0	7.7	7.7
Fort Hood	Force XXI School	0	12.8	12.8
NAS Corpus Christi	Boiler Plant Replacement	0	.8	.8
Dyess AFB	B-1B Squadron OPS	0	10.0	10.0
Laughlin AFB	Corrosion Control Facility	0	4.8	4.8
Utah: Camp Williams ¹	USARC/OMS	0	12.7	12.7
Vermont: Camp Johnson ¹	Maint Shop	0	6.7	6.7
Virginia:				
Fort Story	Post Chapel	0	2.0	2.0
NAS Norfolk	Air OPS Building	0	4.0	4.0
Portsmouth Hospital	New Hospital (Phase IX)	0	17.0	17.0
NSY Norfolk	Waterfront Improvements	0	19.9	19.9
NWS Yorktown	Tomahawk Magazine	0	3.3	3.3
Washington:				
Fort Lewis	Medical Clinic	0	5.0	5.0
Fairchild AFB	Fire Station	0	4.8	4.8
Fairchild AFB	Education Center	0	8.2	8.2
Fairchild AFB ¹	Upgrade KC-135 Flightline	0	9.5	9.5
West Virginia: Camp Dawson ¹	Reserve Center	0	6.8	6.8
Wisconsin: Mitchell ARS ¹	Training Facility	0	4.2	4.2
Active Duty Milcon add-ons		0	560.4	560.4
Reserve/Guard Milcon add-ons		0	268.2	268.2
Total U.S. based Milcon add-ons		0	828.6	828.6
Total Milcon and family housing add-ons			941.6	

¹ Denotes Reserve/National Guard construction projects.

FISCAL YEAR 1998 CONFERENCE REPORT—FAMILY HOUSING ADD-ONS

[Dollar amounts in millions]

State and installation	Project title	Budget request	Change	Appropriation
Arizona: Fort Huachuca	Family housing	0	\$8.0	\$8.0
California: NC San Diego	Family housing	0	13.5	13.5
Hawaii: NC Pearl Harbor	Family housing	0	13.0	13.0
Kansas: McConnell AFB	Family housing mangt office	0	.6	.6
Louisiana: NC New Orleans	Family housing	0	11.9	11.9
Montana: Malmstrom AFB	Management office	0	13.0	13.0
New Jersey: Picatinny Arsenal	Family housing	0	7.3	7.3
Texas:				
NAS Kingsville	Replace family housing	0	22.3	22.3
Lackland AFB	Replace family housing	0	7.4	7.4
Washington: Whidbey Island	Family housing	0	16.0	16.0

State and installation	Project title	Budget request	Change	Appropriation
Total family housing add-ons		0	113.0	113.0

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, pork barrel spending in the defense budgets is not only unwise but potentially dangerous to our national security.

Wasting scarce defense dollars on unnecessary construction projects takes away from the Pentagon's ability to fund the high-priority modernization and operational requirements identified by the military Services.

I cannot disagree with those of my colleagues who believe that the active military has failed to allocate the resources necessary to ensure the readiness of the reserve forces. However, by diverting more than one-third of the congressional add to construction projects for the Reserves, Congress is ignoring the most urgent unfunded requirements that the Reserve components themselves have identified.

Certainly, the Pentagon has not been responsive to congressional direction to redress the underfunding of the Reserve components. But I think this bill clearly demonstrates that Congress is over-zealous in adding money for the Guard.

For example, last year, the Appropriations Committee directed the Army to budget \$75 million for Army National Guard military construction in fiscal year 1998. Unfortunately, the Army failed to follow the committee's direction and budgeted only \$45.1 million in the budget request for Army Guard construction projects. But I fail to see how that gap of \$30 million should become an add of over \$70 million. This conference report provides \$118.3 million for Guard construction—\$43 million more than the Congress said last year should be provided.

Another example—The budget request for Air National Guard projects was \$60.2 million. This conference report more than tripled that number, providing \$190.4 million in fiscal year 1998 alone for Air Guard construction.

Mr. President, I am sure there are many programs on the list of add-ons in this bill. These programs may well be high priorities for individual unit commanders of adjutants general. Undoubtedly, these projects are high priorities for the Members of Congress who requested that they be added to this bill.

But, Mr. President, the simple fact is that military training exercises continue to be cut back, backlogs in aircraft and ship maintenance continue to grow, there is a shortage of funds for flying hours, military health care is underfunded by \$600 million, and 11,787 servicemembers and their families are reportedly on food stamps.

It is unconscionable for the Congress to ignore these urgent priorities that directly correlate to military readiness and personnel quality of life. I might

add, we are now experiencing a hemorrhage of qualified pilots out of the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

It is wrong to divert much-needed funds from truly high-priority needs to instead fund these building projects.

Mr. President, last year, Congress provided the executive branch with an important tool to prevent wasteful spending—the line-item veto. Today, I am sending a letter to President Clinton urging him, in the interest of national security and fiscal responsibility, to exercise his line-item veto authority and eliminate the \$941 million set aside for the 129 unrequested military construction projects contained in this bill.

I intend to vote against the bill, and I urge my colleagues to consider very carefully whether they wish to vote in favor of wasting nearly \$1 billion on these low-priority construction projects.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my letter to the President be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
September 17, 1997.

Hon. BILL CLINTON,
The President,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Today, the Congress completed action on the first regular appropriations measure for Fiscal Year 1998, the Military Construction Appropriations Act. I am writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to exercise your line item veto authority to eliminate \$941 million in unnecessary spending contained in this bill.

This bill contains earmarks for 129 projects which were not included in the Department of Defense budget request because they are lower priority projects than those that were requested by the military Services. As I promised in my August 6, 1997, letter, I am providing a list of the unrequested projects in this bill.

As the Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces, you bear the primary responsibility for ensuring that our troops are trained, equipped, and ready to protect the security of our nation. Because of the continuing push toward a balanced budget and taxpayer relief, the resources available for vital defense priorities are limited, as are resources for almost every other government priority. Wasting these scarce defense dollars on unnecessary construction projects takes away from the Pentagon's ability to fund its high-priority modernization and operational requirements. This spending habit is not only unwise, but potentially dangerous to our national security.

While your exercise of the line item veto to eliminate wasteful earmarks in this bill would not unfortunately make these funds available for other pressing defense needs, it would certainly send a pointed message to Congress from the Commander-in-Chief that this wasteful spending of defense dollars must stop.

I recall that, several years ago, you proposed to rescind funding for Congressional

add-ons in the military construction accounts. That proposal was defeated by Congressional inaction, but you now have an important tool that increases the prospects for successfully eliminating the add-ons in this military construction bill. Therefore, I urge you again to take advantage of this opportunity to line item veto the \$941 million earmarked by Congress for unrequested, low-priority military construction projects.

Sincerely,

JOHN MCCAIN,
U.S. Senator.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, we take note of the Senator from Arizona. I just made a comment here that the complete emphasis on military construction has probably doubled toward the quality of life, just since I have been on this committee. We can make those moves as long as we are allowed to make those moves and to continue to fund those things that we think are important in the overall makeup of our military readiness.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to express my strong support for this bill. I am pleased that the conferees included several projects important to the quality of life and safety at New Jersey's military installations, and I thank the conferees for their efforts to ensure that New Jersey's defense infrastructure needs received adequate funding.

I appreciate the willingness of the conferees to provide funding for three important projects at McGuire Air Force Base. The bill includes \$9.954 million for an Air Mobility Operations Group Warehouse, which will increase the efficiency of the base's mobility operations. Additionally, it includes \$35.217 million for an ambulatory health care center replacement. This new facility will house a full-service outpatient operation and provide adequate space for clinics, ambulatory surgery, ancillary services, storage, offices, and administration. It will improve the quality of care provided to our military personnel.

I am also pleased the conferees included \$8.8 million for a new fire station at McGuire. McGuire's current fire station is inadequate to provide the fire protection and response to aircraft casualties that its mission requires. This facility has inadequate communication and alarm equipment, insufficient vehicle storage areas, deficient living quarters, and inadequate space for training and administrative duties. Due to these conditions, in certain situations, I am told that the base cannot respond simultaneously to a fire emergency and a 911 call. The funding provided for a new fire station will improve the base's ability to respond more adequately and will allow firefighters to execute emergency response operations in a more efficient and timely manner.

For Fort Monmouth, another important military installation in New Jersey, I am pleased the conferees included \$2.05 million for a new fire station. The fort's fire station is currently housed in a World War II vintage structure. This station is charged with protecting the base's numerous research and development facilities, as well as its over 1,000 military family housing units. The funding provided for a new fire station will ensure that facilities on the base are adequately protected, and that the Fort Monmouth community has access to the timely response and fire protection services it deserves. This project is vital to the safety of the entire Fort Monmouth community, and I am pleased the conferees agreed to provide funding for this important project.

I also appreciate the willingness of the conferees to include funding for two important projects at Picatinny Arsenal. I am pleased they provided \$7.3 million to build 35 units of family housing on the base. The existing units have deteriorated since they were constructed in 1940. Most of these units are undersized and lack basic conveniences such as air-conditioning. Their electrical, plumbing, and heating systems are poorly configured and inefficient. The funding provided by the conferees will improve the existing living conditions and the quality of life for the enlisted and their families. It will produce units of family housing that meet current standards of quality of life, energy conservation, size, and safety.

I am also pleased the conferees agreed to provide \$1.3 million in design funding for a new software engineering facility at Picatinny. This funding will allow Picatinny to consolidate the design, development, testing, configuration control, field release and maintenance of weapon systems, simulators, and trainers. It will result in reduced cost for the Army and will improve efficiency in the software engineering process.

These projects are vital to the safety and quality of life of New Jersey's defense infrastructure. Again, I thank the conferees for their support of these important projects in the fiscal year 1998 military construction bill.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the pending military construction appropriations conference agreement provides \$9.183 billion in new budget authority and \$3.024 billion in new outlays for military construction and family housing programs for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 1998.

When outlays from prior-year budget authority and other completed actions are taken into account, the outlays for the 1998 program total \$9.862 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 current section 602(b) allocation for the Military Construction Appropriations 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 1998, and I urge the adoption of the conference report.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a table displaying the Budget Committee scoring of the conference report be placed in the RECORD.

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

H.R. 2016, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS,
1998—SPENDING TOTALS—CONFERENCE REPORT
[Fiscal year 1998, in millions of dollars]

Category	De- fense	Non- de- fense	Crime	Man- datory	Total
Conference report:					
Budget authority	9,183	—	—	—	9,183
Outlays	9,862	—	—	—	9,862
Senate 302(b) allocation:					
Budget authority	9,183	—	—	—	9,183
Outlays	9,920	—	—	—	9,920
President's request:					
Budget authority	8,384	—	—	—	8,384
Outlays	9,839	—	—	—	9,839
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority	9,183	—	—	—	9,183
Outlays	9,909	—	—	—	9,909
Senate-passed bill:					
Budget authority	9,187	—	—	—	9,187
Outlays	9,902	—	—	—	9,902
CONFERENCE REPORT COMPARED TO:					
Senate 302(b) allocation:					
Budget authority	—	—	—	—	—
Outlays	—58	—	—	—	—58
President's request:					
Budget authority	799	—	—	—	799
Outlays	23	—	—	—	23
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority	—	—	—	—	—
Outlays	—47	—	—	—	—47
Senate-passed bill:					
Budget authority	—4	—	—	—	—4
Outlays	—40	—	—	—	—40

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I commend the bill to the Senate, ask for its passage, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 240 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Abraham	Bingaman	Burns
Akaka	Bond	Byrd
Allard	Boxer	Campbell
Ashcroft	Breaux	Chafee
Baucus	Brownback	Cleland
Bennett	Bryan	Coats
Biden	Bumpers	Cochran

Collins	Helms	Murray
Conrad	Hollings	Nickles
Coverdell	Hutchinson	Reed
Craig	Hutchison	Reid
D'Amato	Inhofe	Robb
Daschle	Inouye	Roberts
DeWine	Jeffords	Rockefeller
Dodd	Johnson	Roth
Domenici	Kempthorne	Santorum
Dorgan	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Durbin	Kerrey	Sessions
Enzi	Kerry	Shelby
Faircloth	Kohl	Smith (NH)
Feinstein	Landrieu	Smith (OR)
Ford	Lautenberg	Snowe
Frist	Leahy	Specter
Glenn	Levin	Stevens
Gorton	Lieberman	Thomas
Graham	Lott	Thompson
Gramm	Lugar	Thurmond
Grams	Mack	Torricelli
Grassley	McConnell	Warner
Gregg	Mikulski	Wellstone
Hagel	Moseley-Braun	Wyden
Harkin	Moynihan	
Hatch	Murkowski	

NAYS—3

Feingold

Kyl

McCain

The conference was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we have now passed our first conference report of the year, and I am hoping that within the next 10 days we will pass at least a half dozen more. I know the chairman is working with Members on both sides of the aisle and with our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to do that. I appreciate the cooperation we have received on appropriations bills, although we seem to be a little stalled out here on the Interior appropriations bill. I am not sure the Members are working from the August State work period; we seem to have difficulty in getting Senators to come forward and offer amendments that they say are important.

Now, we were on this some last week. We were on the bill yesterday. We have been on it today. We did not have a vote on an amendment all day Monday, and I am being told now that, well, we have several very important amendments. I want to say this is not just directed to our colleagues on the Democratic side. We have four amendments cooking on the National Endowment for the Arts. My answer is, great, let's have a debate and let's vote. And let's do it in the daylight or we will have to do it tonight.

Now, I have tried very hard for us to do our work during normal working hours like normal people. I know that's very difficult, but that would be helpful. It keeps you from being cranky. It allows us to live somewhat normal lives with our families. But if we refuse to come forward with our amendments and agree to reasonable time agreements—how many of you think you are going to change anybody's mind by giving a 90-minute speech? How many of you think you are going to change

somebody's mind on NEA by giving a 30-minute speech on NEA?

Come forward, my colleagues, offer your amendments, agree to a reasonable time, and let's vote. If we are not going to do it now, we will have to do it tonight because we need to get this appropriations bill done.

We have made good progress. We have worked together. We have had good cooperation. Let's not bog down. If we have a mining amendment, grazing, NEA, let's get them up, let's have reasonable debate with hopefully not more than an hour on anything, and let's vote. I believe we can complete this tonight and go on to the FDA reform package that I believe at least 94 Senators want to do. The Democratic leader has agreed to work with me to try to get that done this week, so I urge my colleagues, let's get going here.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GORTON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for helping in getting this debate going. We already have a unanimous-consent agreement for a debate on the Ashcroft amendment on the National Endowment for the Arts of a maximum of 145 minutes beginning at 1:30. So there will be a vote on or in relation to the Ashcroft amendment before 4 o'clock. Personally, I hope it is much before 4 o'clock if not all of that time is used. There are 2 hours between now and the time at which that amendment starts.

My friend, Senator BRYAN, from Nevada, seems perhaps, I hope, ready for a 1½ hour debate on his amendment on forest roads. I am attempting to clear that on this side of the aisle and hope I can have it done so that we can complete that amendment and have the vote before the NEA debate begins. I do know there are several other National Endowment for the Arts amendments that will succeed the Ashcroft amendment, and maybe one or two others that require votes. Senator BUMPERS may have one on mining.

The majority leader is correct; we have been on this bill off and on, mostly on, since last Friday. We have yet to have our first rollcall vote on the bill or on any amendment to the bill. It is time to get going, and I believe my colleagues are about ready to do just that.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Interior bill, H.R. 2107.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2107) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending question is Hutchinson amendment No. 1196.

Who seeks recognition?

Mr. BROWNBACK addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 1204

(Purpose: To ensure that the Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas, is used as a cemetery)

Mr. BROWNBACK. I ask unanimous consent the pending amendment be set aside, and I call up amendment No. 1204.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] proposes an amendment numbered 1204.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

"SEC. 1 . (a) In this section—

(1) the term "Huron Cemetery" means the lands that form the cemetery that is popularly known as the Huron Cemetery, located in Kansas City, Kansas as described in subsection b(3);

(2) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior;

(b)(1) The Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to ensure that the lands comprising the Huron Cemetery (as described in paragraph (3)) are used only in accordance with this subsection.

(2) The lands of the Huron Cemetery shall be used only—

(A) for religious and cultural uses that are compatible with the use of the lands as a cemetery; and

(B) as a burial ground.

(3) The description of the lands of the Huron Cemetery is as follows:

The tract of land in the NW 1/4 of sec. 10, T. 11 S., R. 25 E., of the sixth principal meridian, in Wyandotte County, Kansas (as surveyed and marked on the ground on August 15, 1888, by William Millor, Civil Engineer and Surveyor), described as follows:

"Commencing on the Northwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 10;

"Thence South 28 poles to the 'true point of beginning';

"Thence South 71 degrees East 10 poles and 18 links;

"Thence South 18 degrees and 30 minutes West 28 poles;

"Thence West 11 and one-half poles;

"Thence North 19 degrees 15 minutes East 31 poles and 15 feet to the 'true point of beginning', containing 2 acres or more."

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I will not take too much of the Members' time to discuss this amendment, but I think it is a clear, narrow piece of legislation that is an important one, and what it involves is a particular tract of land in Kansas City that is currently being used by the Kansas Wyandot Indians, which is an informally recognized tribe, as a burial ground. This tribe has used this tract for a number

of years as a burial ground. There is a branch of the Wyandot Indians in Oklahoma that is an officially recognized tribe that seeks to acquire this particular tract of land and have a casino on it.

Now, setting aside the dispute about which tribe controls this particular tract of land, I just think it is not an appropriate thing for us to approve, or to allow a tribe, this one in Oklahoma, to acquire this land and put a casino on what has been a tribal ancestral burial ground. I think it is sacrilegious for that to occur.

It is not that we are saying there are not enough casinos in Kansas City; we have a number of them. That is a side issue as well. What we seek by this amendment is very narrow, and that is that this tract will remain a burial ground and that it will not be used for a casino.

We do not seek to mediate the issue of who does the land belong to. We do not seek to establish the Kansas Wyandot tribe as an official tribe. That is not a part of it. We don't seek to recognize the Wyandot Oklahoma Indians' claim to this land. We set all of that aside. This amendment simply says this land should remain an Indian burial ground as it has been for generations and it should not be transferred, it should not be land acquired on which to place a casino.

I ask that the Members look at this particular amendment. I am going to call it back up for a vote later on if we do not have consent from all the Members. This land should not be allowed to be used for a casino. It is hallowed ground and it should be allowed as that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I commend my good friend from Kansas. I ask the Senator from Kansas to temporarily set this amendment aside because the chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee is presently presiding at a very important hearing, and I believe he would want to be heard. It is not the intention of the committee to stall this but to accommodate Senator CAMPBELL. So as soon as he is completed, we will try to resolve this matter.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I concur with my friend from Hawaii. I believe that this amendment is going to be cleared, but it is appropriate that both the chairman and the vice chairman of the committee be able to speak at least briefly to it. As soon as we have heard from the Senator from Colorado, we may be able to pass this amendment. Personally, I think it is a good amendment, and I commend the Senator from Kansas for bringing it to our attention.

Mr. President, unless someone else seeks recognition, I am going to suggest the absence of a quorum. I am desperately attempting to get a time agreement on the Bryan amendment before 12 o'clock so that we can finish that before we begin the debate on the National Endowment for the Arts. In