

Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Nickles
Brownback	Grassley	Robb
Bryan	Hagel	Roberts
Bunning	Hatch	Roth
Burns	Helms	Santorum
Campbell	Hutchinson	Sessions
Chafee	Hutchison	Shelby
Cochran	Inhofe	Smith (NH)
Collins	Jeffords	Smith (OR)
Coverdell	Kerrey	Snowe
Craig	Kyl	Specter
DeWine	Lieberman	Stevens
Dodd	Lincoln	Thomas
Domenici	Lott	Thompson
Enzi	Lugar	Thurmond
Feinstein	Mack	Voinovich
Fitzgerald	McCain	Warner
Frist	McConnell	Moynihan
Gorton	Moynihan	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Biden	Crapo	Gregg
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The amendment (No. 611) was rejected.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning's headline says it all: "House GOP Backs NRA's Gun Show Bill."

Many of us in the Senate worry that the good work done in this Chamber will be undone in the House. It is hard to believe that the House leadership is deaf to the pleas of the families who want Washington to quit playing patty-cake with the gun lobby and pass a real bill that closes the gun show loophole.

The measure we passed in the Senate was modest—far too modest for many people's taste. But we said, let us limit it so it does not hurt the legitimate gun owner but at the same time will close loopholes that allow kids and criminals to get guns.

Now in the House, because the NRA is actually in the back room, pen in hand, drafting legislation, we fear that that legislation will be a sham. Anything less than an airtight Brady background check at gun shows is a sham. Redefining what a gun show is and making many gun shows exempt from the law, in effect, to not allow the FBI to make background checks in the time they need so that criminals cannot get guns, is all happening right now in the House.

The only thing I can say to my former colleagues in the House, still my friends, is this: You will not get away with it. When some in this Chamber tried to change the rules, to make it seem as if they were doing something, but winking at the NRA, they were thwarted. The same thing will happen in the House.

There has been a sea change in the views of the American people. Do the American people want to repeal the second amendment or confiscate hunting rifles? No way. But do they believe modest measures that will move us along and prevent kids and criminals from getting guns are in order, no matter what the NRA says? You bet.

I urge the House leadership to come clean, to step forward, to pass the same legislation we passed in the Senate on gun shows without any loopholes, and allow the families in Littleton and the American people to breathe one large sigh of relief that we finally have begun to make progress in preventing kids and criminals from getting guns.

I yield the floor and thank my colleagues.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, June 8, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,607,597,460,814.09 (Five trillion, six hundred seven billion, five hundred ninety-seven million, four hundred sixty thousand, eight hundred fourteen dollars and nine cents).

One year ago, June 8, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,495,352,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-five billion, three hundred fifty-two million).

Five years ago, June 8, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,605,626,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred five billion, six hundred twenty-six million).

Ten years ago, June 8, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,787,738,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred eighty-seven billion, seven hundred thirty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, June 8, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,519,266,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred nineteen billion, two hundred sixty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,088,331,460,814.09 (Four trillion, eighty-eight billion, three hundred thirty-one million, eight hundred fourteen dollars and nine cents) during the past 15 years.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, the Department of Defense appropriations bill passed this chamber with my support. It is no small feat that a bill encompassing the size and gravity such as our national security can be addressed and passed through the U.S. Senate within the span of two days, with few amendments and little rancorous debate. The lion's share of the credit for this accomplishment goes to the managers of the bill, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator STEVENS, and the Ranking Member, Senator INOUYE. Through their efforts, they have again done the work which is the first priority of our government: the defense of American independence, lives, and security around the world.

When programs have been consistently successful, it is easy to forget that national security and national de-

fense are not a given in the political equation. But, national security doesn't just "happen." We achieve our national security and defense goals because of the men and women honorably serving in our nation's Armed Forces. That security and defense is also achieved because Congress passes laws which authorize Defense programs and appropriate the funds to pay for them. Our contribution to the debate on these bills and our vote on these bills is an essential contribution to our nation's defense. It is our role in government's most solemn responsibility.

Given the importance of this responsibility, then, I am encouraged that in this bill as well as in the Defense Authorization, the Senate has responded to the increased strain on our military caused by today's heightened operation tempo. Kosovo adds another requirement to a long list of regions in which U.S. deployment or U.S. commitment is stretching our military forces and supporting intelligence resources to their limit. I have often argued on this floor for allocating our defense and intelligence resources on the basis of threat priorities, and applying the greatest effort to the most dangerous threat. In the same vein, we should avoid overcommitment to places or situations which do not present a direct threat to American independence, lives, or livelihoods. For example, I think it is a mistake to tie up a significant percentage of our Army and Marine combat power in Yugoslav peace-keeping operations long term, and I hope our European allies will take our places there before very long. But wherever those forces are, they must be ready and fully manned, like the air elements of the Air Force, Navy, and Marines who performed so brilliantly over Yugoslavia these last seven weeks. The Defense Appropriations bill supports them.

I would now like to take a few minutes to highlight some of the vitally important work that is being accomplished within this appropriations bill. These are provisions which illustrate that we are on the right track in providing for our military and for providing security for people back home in Nebraska, across the United States, and indeed, throughout the world.

The backbone of the United States Armed Forces is the men and women who choose to serve their country in our military. From the lowest grade enlisted soldier to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I salute those who serve out of love for their country. Earlier this year, I was proud to support S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines Bill of Rights Act of 1999, which began to address the problems of pay levels, recruitment, and retention facing our military today. S. 4 was a good beginning, most markedly by increasing base pay by 4.8 percent. The appropriations bill is consistent with that 4.8

percent pay increase outlined in S. 4, and I am pleased to have supported this provision which will directly and immediately better the lives of the personnel of our Armed Forces.

Another aspect of this appropriations bill which I would like to mention regards an important provision relating to nuclear weapons. During consideration of the Department of Defense Authorization bill for fiscal year 2000, I authored an amendment which would have lifted the restriction on strategic nuclear weapons levels, allowing the U.S. to lower the number of warheads below the START I level. It is my belief that my amendment would not only have increased U.S. security, but would have freed up billions of dollars for other high priority items. The Congressional Budget Office recently conducted a study in which it found we could save between \$12.7 billion and \$20.9 billion over the next ten years by reducing U.S. nuclear delivery systems within the overall limits of START II.

While I would like to thank the 43 of my colleagues who supported my amendment, it unfortunately did not pass. I do not want to return to that debate at this time. However, there is a related program which I have previously supported which also deals with national security and Russian nuclear weapons—the Former Soviet Union Threat Reduction program, otherwise known as Nunn-Lugar. The Nunn-Lugar program provides assistance to states of the former Soviet Union for safeguarding nuclear materials, dismantling missiles and other weapons, and other demilitarization measures. The DoD Appropriations bill funds Nunn-Lugar in the amount of \$476 million. Additionally, this bill allocates \$25 million of these funds to support the Russian nuclear submarine dismantlement and disposal activities started in FY 1998. This is an important program that in a very concrete and discernable way, increases our security, and I am happy to have supported it.

Along with programs of national concern, there are a number of provisions in this bill that directly allow Nebraskans to continue their vital work in safeguarding U.S. national security.

Offutt Air Force Base, located in Bellevue, Nebraska, is responsible for a number of missions which are particularly noteworthy. Offutt, with over 10,000 military and civilian personnel, is home to the United States Strategic Command, the joint command charged with deterring nuclear attacks on our country. There are many threats out there, but only one of them, Russian nuclear weapons, is capable of ending our national life. STRATCOM's mission may not be in the news that often, but it the most essential of all defense missions, and it is commanded from Nebraska.

Offutt Air Force Base also hosts the U.S. Air Force's premiere reconnaissance and command-and-control unit,

the 55th Wing, the largest wing within the Air Force's Air Combat Command. The Fighting 55th's aircraft provide global situational awareness to military leaders and government officials. It is by now commonplace to say that we live in the Information Age. Information has become a precious commodity which often can mean the difference between success and defeat. The missions that Offutt specializes in focus on gathering this kind of critical information. In a variety of ways, Offutt's missions keep us more informed, more aware, and more safe. Here are some specifics on the various programs.

The 55th's workhorse aircraft is the RC-135, also known as Rivet Joint. The RC-135 mission conducts electronic reconnaissance, providing direct, near real-time information and electronic warfare support to theater commanders and combat forces monitoring. Rivet Joint has played an important role in a number of recent military missions, including Kosovo, Bosnia, and Iraq. Information gathered by the RC-135 is made available to theater commanders, the Department of Defense and National Command Authorities. Data is processed, analyzed and stored by Air Combat Command, the Air Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency. I am pleased that the bill passed yesterday appropriates \$220.4 million for the refurbishing and upgrading of these important aircraft. Reengineering these aircraft is a particularly important improvement.

The WC-135 fulfills an air sampling mission in support of the Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick AFB, Florida, by verifying compliance with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. It gathers information on nuclear tests and conducts baseline air sampling. By collecting particles in the air during flight, the WC-135 is able to detect if and when nuclear tests are conducted or if a nuclear bomb is detonated, even from thousands of miles away. Considering the nuclear weapons testing last year of both India and Pakistan, it is clear that the WC-135 has not outlived its usefulness. The WC-135 is the only aircraft throughout the U.S. Air Force conducting this vital mission, and we in Nebraska are fortunate to have it based at home at Offutt Air Force Base.

The OC-135, or Open Skies, is tasked to complete photo reconnaissance flyovers. This mission supports the Defense Threat Reduction Agency by conducting observation flights in accord with the Open Skies Treaty. This treaty will allow the OC-135 to fly over Russian air space to monitor weapons reductions treaties. Although the Open Skies Treaty has not yet been ratified by all parties, the OC-135 has not been dormant. While the Open Skies Treaty awaits ratification, the OC-135 is heavily involved in additional photo reconnaissance projects, including missions

such as weather observations of Hurricane Mitch. The Open Skies mission is fully funded through fiscal year 2004.

Additionally, E-4B aircraft also stationed at Offutt provide transport and command and control for the President, the Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of State. Much more than simply a transport aircraft, the E-4B allows senior officials complete access to critical information and communications in a secure fashion, keeping the President and others "in the loop," even while in mid-flight.

Along with Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska continues to make important contributions to our national security through components of the National Guard and the Reserves. Most recently, these components have played important roles in Kosovo alongside their active component counterparts.

The 155th Wing of the Nebraska Air National Guard has been very active during the Kosovo mission, flying KC-135s—fuel tanker planes—above and around Kosovo. These KC-135s perform the remarkable task of mid-air refueling for a variety of aircraft, including the B-52 Stratofortress and the E6. Indeed, over the last several months, the Nebraska unit led the KC-135 refueling effort, involving hundreds of aircraft, and also was the last volunteer unit engaged in the region before the reserve call-up was instituted. This has all been done, even though the 155th Wing is the smallest of all the Air Guard wings across the country. I applaud their efforts and their successes.

As well, the Nebraska Army National Guard is currently serving in a nine-month deployment in Bosnia as part of the NATO peace-keeping forces. The 24th Medical Company is working alongside Guard units from across the country to transport patients from the field to hospitals. At a time when a robust economy and opportunities in the private sector can pull people away from public service, I salute these men and women who continue to make sacrifices so that we may be safe.

The examples I have given here of the hard work being done by our Armed Forces are not the exception, but the rule. In a time of tight budgets and increased missions, I am proud to say that our Armed Forces are second to none around the globe. Even when we continue to ask more of our military men and women, they always rise to the challenge. We must never forget the risks they take for our sake and the freedoms they forego, and we must provide them the best support, conditions, equipment, and training possible in return. I am proud to have supported passage of the defense appropriations bill yesterday, and I hope and expect that we will continue the strong support of those who are willing to sacrifice all for the cause of your freedom and mine, the men and women of our Armed Forces.

DSCC AND INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to alert my colleagues to what may be a very disturbing precedent. My office recently received a copy of a letter dated May 18 and sent from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee to the Department of Health and Human Services. I want to read the first paragraph:

I am writing to request documents pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 et seq., involving all correspondence, inquiries and other information requested by or provided to the following United States Senators for the time periods noted.

There are some 10 Republican Senators that are listed here over the last 10 years. I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

DEMOCRATIC SENATORIAL
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE,
Washington, DC, May 18, 1999.

HHS Freedom of Information Officer,
Washington, DC.

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request.

I am writing to request documents pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552 et seq. ("FOIA"), involving all correspondence, inquiries and other information requested by or provided to the following United States Senators for the time periods noted: Spencer Abraham, 1995-present; John Ashcroft, 1995-present; Conrad Burns, 1989-present; Bill Frist, 1995-present; Slade Gorton, 1981-1986, 1989-present; Rod Grams, 1995-present; James Jeffords, 1989-present; John Kyl, 1995-present; Rick Santorum, 1991-present; Olympia Snowe, 1995-present.

I seek all direct correspondence between the Senators or members of their staff and your office, including letters, written material, reports, constituent requests and other relevant material. I am not seeking any secondary material such as phone logs, e-mails, notations of conversations and so on. Since this is a request covering a number of years, I am willing to discuss ways to make this request more manageable to your office. Please contact me at the number above or on my direct line at (202) 485-3109.

In the event any of the documents I have requested are not available for disclosure in their entirety, I request you release any material that may be reasonably separated and released, as provided by Code of Federal Regulations. Furthermore, for any documents, or portions thereof, that are determined to be exempt from disclosure, I request that you exercise your discretion to disclose the materials, absent a finding that sound grounds exist to invoke the exemption, as provided by the Code of Federal Regulations. I also request that you state the specific legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions of documents. Finally, please identify each document that falls within scope of this request but is withheld from release.

If any requested documents are located in, or originated in, another installation or bureau, I request that you refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate installation or bureau.

I am willing to pay all reasonable costs incurred in locating and duplicating these materials. Please contact me prior to processing to approve any fees or charges incurred in excess of \$125.

To help assess my status for copying and mailing fees, please note that I am a representative of a political organization gathering information for research purposes only, and not for any commercial activity.

I look forward to your response within ten days after the receipt of this request and please do not hesitate to call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

ALEXIS L. SCHULER,
Research Director.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, in this letter, the DSCC is making a broad request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding any information sent from my office to HHS or received from the Department. But it just doesn't include me. I have already said that. It includes a lot of Senators—10 of them, in fact, all Republicans, all up for reelection this year.

The Freedom of Information Act request covers, "all correspondence, inquiries and other information requested by or provided to" my office over the past 10 years in the Senate, including "all direct correspondence between the Senators or members of their staff and the HHS, including letters, written material, reports, constituent requests [very important] and other relevant materials." In other words, they want access to our casework.

I have written to President Clinton demanding that he put an immediate stop to this or any similar action. What we are witnessing here is an unprecedented attempt to corrupt the nonpolitical casework system of Senate offices for political gain. I find these efforts repugnant, and if there are any Americans alive who think politics can't sink any lower, they need to look no further than right here.

Through the letter to the HHS, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee wants more than just to peer into private correspondence of political enemies; it wants to leer into the private lives of those who contact their Senator seeking help with Federal agencies. I have made tens of thousands of contacts on behalf of Montanans who asked me to help them with problems they are having with the Federal Government.

These are problems which, if publicly revealed, could possibly ruin their lives. Many of these people are at the end of their emotional rope. Some of them are at the end of their financial world.

It is beyond belief that the DSCC would consider ruining the lives of ordinary Americans to be all in a day's work in order to defeat this old Senator. This effort would put a permanent chill on the ability of Senators to help constituents in need. It saddens me to think that those who view a Senator's help as their last resort may now believe they have nowhere to turn.

Just today, my office received a letter from a man in Billings, MT, whose wife we helped to receive treatment for breast cancer. As a Federal employee, she was having a hard time receiving

the treatment. And she was entitled to it. After she asked for our assistance, we were able to resolve the matter for her and she got the care she needed. When her cancer spread, the Federal bureaucracy told her she couldn't get the care she needed close to home.

Quoting his letter to me:

After becoming totally frustrated with the whole process, we just gave up. But this time we decided to fight the issue again. I turned to the Senator's office again to enlist his help. And again in what seemed to be a flash of light, the situation has been resolved.

Our office again stepped in. We cut the redtape. We helped her receive the additional radiation therapy while staying at her home in Billings.

These are the people who depend on our help—real people whose lives are literally on the line. But the man who sent me the letter specifically asked that his name not be used in order to protect his privacy and, yes, that of his wife.

Is it right that he should be subject to a Freedom of Information request, that some bureaucrat somewhere could decide on a whim to release this personal, sensitive information? It is hard to comprehend that the DSCC would use the time and the resources of the administration for political purposes in such a massive research effort, regardless of who ultimately pays.

This effort is as constitutionally breathtaking as it is politically suspect. All those who value their civil rights should be outraged at this attempt to invade the privacy of countless unwary citizens. If indeed Federal law permits it, it is an absolute shame. It is enough to make me wonder whether Americans should now expect politicians to use any means to achieve their ends—laws, morals, and ethics be damned.

Our President has said he deplores the politics of personal destruction. However, in this case we are not talking about the destruction of one political opponent, but the lives of innocent Americans. And I am sickened by it. I ask the President and all Americans to stand up against this kind of invasion of privacy, all in the name of gaining an electoral advantage.

My political opponents are welcome to engage me anytime, anywhere, on my record, which I am proud to stand on. But when you try to drag the lives of innocent Montanans into your ugly schemes, I will fight with every breath in my body. It is a sad day.

I yield the floor.

EXTENSION OF NORMAL-TRADE-RELATIONS WITH CHINA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to support a joint resolution disapproving the extension of normal-trade-relations status to China.

This is the fourth time that I have joined with other Senators to support such a resolution because I believe that trade policy is an effective tool that the United States can and should use