

FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4205) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of a strong national defense, but in reluctant opposition to the FY 2001 Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 4576). A strong defense is not simply a function of how much we spend, but also of how intelligently we spend it. Depending on who's counting, the United States spends as much on defense as the next six or seven highest countries combined. The 281 billion that the United States spent on defense in 1998 was more than all of our NATO allies combined and accounted for more than a third of all world military spending. Yet today, our military faces serious problems in training, recruiting, retention, and readiness.

One reason for this situation is the lack of a coherent national strategy. Our men and women in uniform have been dispatched across the globe in operations that are not in the national interest. This wears out our soldiers and equipment, and leaves the military less prepared to defend real national interests. The common lament I hear is that we are "spreading ourselves too thin". The lion's share of responsibility for this problem lies with the Administration.

But we're spreading ourselves too thin in the defense budget process as well, and responsibility for that falls on Congress. Congress continues to spend critical defense dollars on items that the Pentagon does not want or need.

For example:

1. F-15 aircraft—The Air Force requested no funds for additional F-15 aircraft, but the House passed \$400 million for 5 additional F-15E's. The Air Force has difficulty getting spare parts for the planes it already has. Building more unrequested planes only aggravates that problem.

2. Cold Weather Equipment—Congress added \$24 million for Gore-Tex cold weather gear that the Pentagon did not request, at the request of a Congressman whose constituents manufacture the gear. With the recruiting problems the military has, it has difficulty getting enough soldiers just to fill out the gear it already has.

3. Wolverine Heavy Assault Bridge—The Army requested no funds for the Wolverine heavy assault bridge. In fact, although the Army received \$82 million for the Wolverine for FY 2000, it did not intend to spend it on the bridge. H.R. 4576 commands the Army to spend the \$82 million on the Wolverine, as well as an additional \$15 million. In short, Congress is forcing the Army to spend \$97 million on a bridge that it doesn't need.

4. Medical Research—The Administration requested \$16.5 million for medical research

in the defense bill. The Appropriations Committee reported out \$252.2 million in H.R. 4576, including: \$6 million for laser vision correction research, \$3.7 million for nutrition research, \$10 million for ovarian cancer research, \$15 million for HIV research, \$3 million for chronic fatigue research, and \$7 million for alcoholism research.

Now, some of these programs may be valid, but they are non-defense items. We have a Labor/Health and Human Services Appropriations bill that is more suitable for these programs. Hiding these items within H.R. 4576 is unfair to our taxpayers.

In addition, H.R. 4576 skirted two important issues with profound budget and readiness implications:

Base Realignment and Closure Commission—H.R. 4576 does not include funding for two new BRAC rounds, despite the fact that the Pentagon has estimated it has an excess base capacity of 23%. CBO estimates that two new BRAC rounds would save the Defense Department \$4.7 billion by 2010, and that after completion in 2012, DOD could realize recurring savings of about \$4 billion per year. Congress' inaction means that the Pentagon must continue to waste billions of taxpayer dollars maintaining obsolete bases.

Aircraft—H.R. 4576 includes billions for research, development and procurement of three different fighter planes (the Navy's F-18 E/F, The Air Force F-22, and the Navy & Air Force Joint Strike Fighter) when there is not a strong consensus that all three fighters are necessary. Some defense experts say the military needs the F-18 & F-22. Some say it needs the JSF instead. Congress' answer is simply to fund all of the fighter planes in question. Now, Congress is forging ahead with funding the production of 10 F-22 Aircraft when there are indications that the program is not ready for production. In doing so, Congress takes away from aircraft (specifically bombers and unmanned aerial aircraft [UAVs]) that, while less glamorous, are a more pressing need for the military.

I agree that the Congress should fund a military that is second to none. And H.R. 4576 does include several important items I support, like funding for domestic terrorism response, more decent enlisted pay, and missile defense. But it is also weighed down with too many items that are unnecessary for, and in fact, counterproductive to, our national defense. Therefore, I reluctantly oppose the bill.

HONORING STEPHEN CHEN OF THE TAIWAN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE [TECRO]

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I express our deepest appreciation to Representative Stephen Chen of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Representative Office [TECRO] for his service as his country's senior diplomat here in Washington since 1997. Stephen has served the people of Taiwan with distinction for over 47 years as a member of Taiwan's diplomatic corps. He has served abroad in the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and as

Vice Foreign Minister and Deputy Secretary General to President Lee in Taiwan. Stephen has been a staunch supporter of bilateral relations between the United States and Taiwan and has earned the respect and friendship of many Members of Congress. I invite my colleagues to join in wishing Stephen and his family best wishes on the occasion of his return to Taiwan and his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELICA MILTON

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Angelica Milton of Folkston, GA. Angelica was named a National Award Winner for honor roll. This prestigious award is offered to fewer than 10% of American high school students. Angelica was selected by her teachers and school staff members for her excellent academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, and dependability.

Angelica is an exceptional young lady, who exemplifies the qualities of a true leader, and I am proud to recognize her as an outstanding citizen of my district.

RECOGNIZING THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION AND POSTAL SERVICE EFFORTS IN PROMOTING CONSUMER AWARENESS OF UNSAFE PRODUCTS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, defective products can have devastating effects on American lives. One of the strongest safeguards we have in protecting the safety and health of our citizens is the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The CPSC is working with manufacturers and retailers to keep harmful or dangerous products off of store shelves and away from Americans.

The U.S. Postal Service has made an innovative attempt at remedying this problem by giving defective products more exposure in its offices. Over 33,000 post offices nationwide are displaying posters containing color pictures of products recalled by the CPSC. Since almost 7 million people visit those post offices everyday to mail letters and ship packages, this should be highly effective in disseminating to consumers the names of those products that have been recalled by the CPSC.

I would like to share with my colleagues an editorial that recently appeared in the Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel regarding this issue. I applaud the CPSC and the Postal Service for their initiative in protecting the public.

[From the Sun-Sentinel, Apr. 24, 2000]

PRODUCT RECALLS—POSTERS IN POST OFFICES WILL HELP

The U.S. Postal Service, which for years has been helping to get defective product off

the streets by displaying the FBI's "most wanted" list, now wants to do the same with defective products.

Posters containing color pictures of products recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission are going up in 33,000 post offices nationwide. Every day, about 7 million people will visit those post offices to mail letters and ship packages. Now they'll be able to get potentially life-saving information while they're there.

"We can get dangerous products off store shelves, but the real challenge is to get them out of families' homes," commission Chairwoman Ann Brown said.

That's the crux of it. As more and more products are recalled, a smaller and smaller percentage of them rate a mention in news reports. For the rest, it's left to consumers to determine whether products they own have been recalled. That's a bad system, and as the Sun-Sentinel reported in its product recall series last year, several proposals have been put forth to fix it.

Ralph Nader, for example, has suggested using computers to notify consumers immediately if products they own have been recalled. Others want to repeal or modify section 6b of the Consumer Product Safety Act, which requires that recalls be kept secret until the companies involved can review the information, a process that can take years.

Those are good ideas, but unless and until they are implemented, displaying posters in post offices will help. It's another way in which the post office can serve as "the one hand that binds this nation together," as one postal official put it.

And hey, if you see any wanted criminals on your way to return a defective product, call the police and tell them you want to report a defective person.

NATIVE NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND POLICY ACT OF 2000

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy (NNI). I am pleased to be joined by the Chairman of the Resources Committee Mr. Young and a number of our colleagues.

The Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy will provide an essential and comprehensive training program for American Indian leaders so that present and future generations of tribal leaders will have access to necessary management and policy decision making skills.

The Native Nations Institute will be based at the University of Arizona and be under the leadership and guidance of the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy. The Udall Center will take on primary responsibility for the implementation of NNI's programs while the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation (established by Public Law 102-259) will approve NNI's annual budget and manage any federal appropriations. The governing committee of NNI will be comprised of individuals from the Morris K. Udall Foundation, the Udall Center, representatives from Indian Nations, and representa-

tives from other academic groups directly involved in NNI's projects.

The Native Nations Institute will empower Native American leaders by providing a comprehensive program that focuses on (1) leadership and management training and (2) policy analysis. The leadership and management training program has six components that will (a) provide for the current educational needs of the senior leaders and managers of Indian Nations, (b) provide a distance learning program that reaches a broad reservation audience, and (c) provide a Master's degree in Public Administration focused on tribal governance and designed for mid-career individuals and students who are seeking careers in tribal government. In addition, the leadership and management program will (d) create an alliance with tribal colleges that provide curricular materials, program cooperation, and assistance in meeting the educational needs of Indian reservations, (e) provide a nine month Washington DC internship program focusing on federal government, and (f) create a curriculum development program designed for NNI and for other educational institutions working in Indian country. All of the components in the leadership and management program will share a common focus—they will enable skills such as nation-building, strategic planning and policy making, administration and management, and external relations to be developed and strengthened. As policy makers ourselves, we can do no greater service to Indian tribes than to provide them with opportunities to help strengthen their governments.

Policy analysis, the second program at the NNI, will address contemporary issues facing tribal governments including economic development, solving intricate social problems, interacting with other governments, and managing natural resources. NNI will perform policy research grounded in Indian country to address these issues and will use this research in the leadership and management training program by providing data, case studies, and analysis for the program's students.

By providing indigenous people customized educational experiences in policy and management, we will continue to move toward the policy goal of self-determination for Indian tribes. I urge my colleagues to recognize and to continue to fulfill our obligation to Indian Nations by supporting the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy Act of 2000.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC AND KANSAS CITY JAZZ

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House gave unanimous support to House Resolution 509 offered by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania's 2nd district, Representative CHAKA FATTAH. This resolution recognizes the importance of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate African American music. Artists have used and continue to use the African American experience as an important source of inspiration for various musical genres including jazz, gospel, blues, rhythm

and blues, rap, and hip-hop. It is especially important to recognize this in June, which President Clinton designated three years ago as African American Music Month. In 1997, the President noted that "... America's musical heritage music is the voice that proclaims who we are as a people, then African Americans have helped to give this voice its content, its tone, its volume, and its power. . . . This music continues to grow and change, continuously adding depth and richness to America's cultural heritage."

African American music, more specifically jazz, has played an important role in the cultural development of Missouri's Fifth District. In the 1920's and 1930's, Kansas City was the birthplace of swing and a major center in the maturation of bebop style jazz. Several jazz greats including Charlie "Bird" Parker, Count Basie, Big Joe Turner, and Jay McShann have called Kansas City their home, and their legacy is alive and well in the community today.

To recognize Kansas City's role in jazz history and to further the appreciation of the art form, Kansas City has revitalized the district where jazz once played non-stop through the night. In 1997, the American Jazz Museum opened at the historic 18th and Vine address immortalized in Lieber and Stoller's song "Kansas City." This 50,000-square-foot complex features interactive exhibits and sound samples chronicling the music and the musicians who made jazz great. Dedicated to the unknown African Americans who fought for self-sufficiency, the American Jazz Museum also remembers the plight of Africans in America from slavery to freedom. The Parker Memorial adjacent to the museum is a 17-foot sculpture of Charlie Parker in honor of his vast contributions to American culture. More than 350,000 visitors from the inner city, suburbs, and around the country experienced the museum last year alone.

Kansas City showcases African American music through its annual Blues and Jazz festival which takes place near the historic WWI Liberty Memorial. More than 50,000 people come from all parts of the city and the region to enjoy some of the best music America has to offer.

This resolution also comes in conjunction with the Jazz Conference sponsored by BET on Jazz and Billboard Magazine June 7-9 in Washington, DC to discuss new strategies for taking jazz into the new millennium. I hope many of my distinguished colleagues join me at this historic event to study the past and anticipate the future of jazz.

By recognizing the influence and importance of African American music, we have called on Americans to learn the history of blues, jazz, and other genres. Hopefully, other cities will follow Kansas City's lead to promote and study the musicians and their music. Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the gentleman from Pennsylvania and supporting adoption of this historic resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was home in my district this Tuesday, June 6, to vote