

toward alleviating cruelty and unnecessary suffering by these creatures.

Let me read from the Book of Genesis. First chapter, versus 24–26 reads:

And God said—

Who said? God said.

And God said, Let the Earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the Earth after his kind: and it was so.

And God made—

Who made?

And God made the beasts of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said—

Who said? God said. Who said?

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the Earth.

Thus, Mr. President, God gave man dominion over the Earth. We are only the stewards of this planet. We are only the stewards of His planet. Let us not fail in our Divine mission. Let us strive to be good stewards and not defile God's creatures or ourselves by tolerating unnecessary, abhorrent, and repulsive cruelty.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I wish to request—I understand my colleague, Senator STEVENS, has already done this with respect to his cloakroom—that our cloakrooms send out a call to various Senators and staffs who are in town to let Senator STEVENS and me and the floor staffs know by 3 p.m. today if they have amendments which they expect to offer. If Senators expect to offer amendments and have not already informed Senator STEVENS and myself and our floor staffs, they should do so by 3 p.m. today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

AMENDMENT NO. 862

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator SCHUMER and others, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. DODD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CORZINE, proposes an amendment numbered 862.

Mr. REID. 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:

(Purpose: To rescind \$33,900,000 for the printing and postage costs of the notices to be sent by the Internal Revenue Service before and after the tax rebate, such amount to remain available for debt reduction)

On page 44, line 20, strike “\$66,200,000” and insert “\$32,300,000”.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this amendment has been sent to the desk on behalf of Senators SCHUMER, REED, DODD, LIEBERMAN, and CORZINE that would rescind \$33.9 million in unnecessary spending from the supplemental appropriations bill.

This money would finance an unnecessary and inappropriate notice to taxpayers on the rebate they will receive as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

This amendment is offered to help uphold the standards of professionalism and integrity that the Internal Revenue Service has historically tried to maintain.

These standards are threatened by this partisan notification.

The letter reads:

We are pleased to inform you that the United States Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, which provides long-term relief for all Americans who pay income taxes. The new tax law provides immediate tax relief in 2001 and long-term tax relief for the years to come.

In 1975, a similar rebate was made available to taxpayers and it was simply included in the refunds.

I look forward to working with my colleague on this amendment, as does Senator SCHUMER, as debate on the supplemental appropriations proceeds. I hope this amendment will be accepted.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be laid aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 863

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator FEINGOLD, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] for Mr. FEINGOLD, proposes an amendment numbered 863.

Mr. REID. 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:

(Purpose: To increase the amount provided to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, and to offset that increase by rescinding amounts appropriated to the Navy for the V-22 Osprey aircraft program)

On page 28, beginning on line 9, strike “\$100,000,000” and all that follows through

line 13, and insert the following: “\$693,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this amount may be made available, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for a United States contribution to a global trust fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis: *Provided, further*, That the entire amount made available under this heading is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided, further*, That the entire amount under this heading shall be available only to the extent that an official budget request for that specific dollar amount that includes the designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement as defined in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, is transmitted by the President to the Congress: *Provided, further*, That the total amount of the rescission for ‘Aircraft Procurement, Navy, 2001/2003’ under section 1204 is hereby increased by \$594,000,000.”

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment be laid aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I am going to ask that the Senate recess awaiting the call of the Chair. I will be available, and Senator STEVENS will be available anytime a Senator comes to the floor and wishes to offer an amendment or to make a statement on any matter. This will merely free the floor staff for a moment to have lunch, if necessary.

Mr. President, seeing no Senator seeking recognition, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess awaiting the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:24 p.m., recessed until 3:27 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. GRAHAM).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 864

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], for Mr. ROBERTS, for himself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. MILLER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BROWNBACK, proposes an amendment numbered 864.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds for reorganizing certain B-1 bomber forces)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2001 may be obligated or expended for retiring or dismantling, or for preparing to retire or dismantle, any of the 93 B-1B Lancer bombers in service as of June 1, 2001, or for transferring or resigning any of those aircraft from the unit, or the facility; to which assigned as of that date.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, recently the Air Force revealed as part of its programmed budget decision its plan to cut the B-1B force structure by more than one-third. This has a substantial impact on a variety of Air Force bases that currently have a B-1B mission, and actually eliminates the B-1B entirely from Mountain Home Air Force Base in my State, from McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas, and from Robins Air Force Base in Georgia.

Such a drawdown in the B-1B fleet has the same national impact as would BRAC. Clearly, decisions of this magnitude should not be made without consultation with Congress. There was no opportunity for advice and consent on the part of the Air Force or the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Therefore, I offer this amendment on behalf of myself and Senator ROBERTS to preempt any precipitous action by the Department of Defense that could circumvent the right of Congress to review such a significant change in our Air Force defense structure.

This amendment will prevent any 2001 funds from being used for the preparation of retiring, dismantling, or reassigning any portion of the B-1B fleet. This would allow Congress the necessary time to consider the significance of the Air Force's decision and its impact with regard to the fiscal year 2002 defense budget.

The B-1B satisfies a very specific warfighting requirement as our fastest long-range strategic bomber capable of flying intercontinental missions without refueling. With its flexible weapons payloads and a high carrying capacity, it is extremely effective against time-sensitive and mobile targets.

While cutting the force structure is advocated as a means of cost savings and weapons upgrade, it comes at a significant national security cost. Removal of the B-1B from Mountain Home Air Force Base calls into question DOD's support of the composite wing which is the basis for the air expeditionary wing concept and raises other long-term strategic and mission questions.

The composite wing is our Nation's "911 call" in times of conflict that require rapid reaction and deployment over long distances. Do we want to eliminate our nation's 911 call, particularly in light of a future defense strategy that requires the increase capabilities that the B-1B offers as a long-range, low-altitude, fast-penetration bomber?

Mountain Home Air Force Base is unique.

At Mountain Home, we train our men and women in uniform as they are expected to fight by bringing together the composite wing and an adjacent premier training range with significant results that will ensure that we are the next generation air power leader. We have composite wing training twice a month, premier night low-altitude training, dissimilar air combat training, and the current composite wing configuration fulfills the air expeditionary wing requirement 100 percent. Without the B-1B in the composite wing, our target load capability is reduced by 60 percent.

Removal of the B-1B from the three bases will actually increase costs while reducing operational readiness: The B1 missions for the National Guard at McConnell and Robins Air Force bases have a 15 percent higher mission capable rate than active duty units at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas and Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, with 25 percent less cost per flying hour, due to decreased wear and tear on the aircraft. Also, the National Guard repairs B-1 engines for the whole fleet at 60 percent of the depot cost. As a result of the high costs associated with traveling to others bases for training, other B1-B wings from Dyess Air Force Base and Ellsworth Air Force Base take part only once a year in composite wing training, whereas the B1-B wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base conducts this type of training twenty four times per year. The result is that aviators from Mountain Home are rated higher in operational inspections and training because of the enhanced training opportunities which they receive at reduced cost to the government.

The Department of Defense shouldn't make budget decisions which change major national security objectives without congressional review. Military budget decision should be made for the right reasons and not be based on playing political favors, especially when it impacts our operational capability and readiness, and will cost the government more money in the long run. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment which will provide Congress with time to review the Air Force's decision and its effects on our national defense structure.

I have another amendment for proposal that is to be drafted and that I believe the ranking member will offer before the 6 o'clock deadline. I will speak briefly to that amendment. It deals with grain and commodity sales to Israel.

Israel, as we all know, began to receive cash transfer assistance in 1979 which replaced, in part, commodity import program assistance. In lieu of assistance specifically for commodity purchases, Israel agreed to continue to purchase United States grain, of which it has purchased 1.6 million metric tons every year since, or until this year, 2001, and ship half of it in privately owned United States-flagged commer-

cial vessels. That, in essence, was the agreement in 1979.

Despite a level of United States aid in every year since 1984 that has been higher than the 1979-1983 level, Israel never increased its grain imports. That was kind of the quid pro quo: As our rates increased, support would go up, and so would their purchases of commodities. Had proportionality been the test, Israel would have reached the 2.45 million tons at least at one point. It never has. However, Israel has consistently cited proportionality in reference to the 2001 Foreign Operations appropriation act in stating its intent to cut purchases of approximately 1.2 million metric tons in this fiscal year. This cut is disproportionately greater than the reduction of the U.S. aid from the 2000-2001 fiscal period and is not consistent with congressional intent.

My amendment, which will be proposed later this afternoon, reshapes this, ensuring that a side letter agreement, with the terms of at least as favorable treatment as those in the year 2001, would be more consistent with past congressional intent and previous bilateral relations. Proportionality is something that I don't think can be or should be effectively argued whereas they did not respond when our aid increases went up.

We will be bringing a letter to the floor insisting that Israel stay consistent with what was agreed to following 1979 as it related to turning, if you will, commodity import programs into cash transfer assistance. We think we have honored our agreement with Israel. The amendment simply requires them to honor their agreement with us.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

USE OF MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I enjoyed reading the Washington Post this morning and listening to the weekend talk shows. I noticed I was the subject of a number of the articles and a number of the shows. I must say, I didn't recognize the policy that was being ascribed to me. Somehow, people have taken what I have proposed and twisted it and distorted it in a way that is almost unrecognizable. I think after examination it is clear why they have done that, but we will get into that in a moment.

The first article I would refer to is Robert Novak's piece in this morning's Washington Post that was headlined, "Kent Conrad's Show Trial."