

sacrifices they made. And students should always be reminded of that in the history books of this country.

Mr. President, 1,000 World War II veterans are dying every day. The average age of a World War II veteran now is 80 years. I, and all Senators, have returned from our respective States. We all attended Memorial Day services. I did that a week ago yesterday. Frankly, I have been attending these services for many years. The crowds are smaller than they used to be because the World War II heroes are passing away, they are leaving the scene.

So I want the RECORD spread with the fact that it was a real honor for me to meet these brave men today and to meet some of the actors who are in this movie.

Again, I want the RECORD to reflect what sacrifices these men made. I am glad that finally their story is going to be made public to the world.

TERRORISM INSURANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate, as has been announced, is considering the emergency supplemental bill. Of course, anyone with amendments should come to the floor. We have so much work to be done this legislative year. We need to complete action on many important matters. One issue we must seek to work on quickly, expeditiously, is getting a bill out of this body to address the growing problem of a lack of insurance coverage due to the threat of terrorist attacks.

Moody's Investors Service, which is a world famous organization, recently placed the ratings of 14 commercial mortgage-backed transactions on watch for possible downgrade due to concerns about terrorism insurance coverage.

Moody's states that either the lack of or insufficiency of, or near-term expiration of terrorism insurance coverage is the cause for these reviews for downgrade.

In each case, terrorism insurance coverage has expired or will expire by the end of the third quarter of 2002.

A Moody's spokesman stated:

We believe that ignoring the risks would be inappropriate given the events of Sept. 11 and continued government warnings of the likelihood of future terrorist attacks. While the probability of a major downgrade or default because of a terrorist attack remains fairly remote, the overall risk in these transactions has clearly increased.

Moody's stated that it will take into account any Federal backstop for terrorism insurance put into effect by Congress.

The majority—Senator DASCHLE—has been trying since December 2001 to reach agreement on bringing up legislation to deal with this growing problem. Unfortunately, every time we try, we have been blocked from bringing this up by the minority. Senators DODD, SARBANES, and SCHUMER have put together a solid proposal that addresses this problem.

The desire to move this quickly necessitates a unanimous consent agreement on the number of amendments that would be in order to this legislation. We have repeatedly modified our proposal to accommodate amendments that individual Senators seek to offer to the Dodd proposal.

Over the recess, I have heard that Senators GRAMM of Texas and MCCONNELL have put together a new proposal on terrorism insurance.

While I believe we should have addressed this issue a long time ago—they have every right to propose something new. I hope that whether it is controversial or not, it will help in moving this matter forward. Under our proposed consent request, they would be able to offer this proposal as an amendment. We have suggested that each side have four amendments, originally two; they said they wanted more, we doubled that.

The issue is too important to be caught up in political agendas at this stage. There are some who seek to impose greater restrictions on insurance companies. There are others who seek to use this legislation as the way to have tort reform as part of the bill's consideration. I encourage everyone to come to the middle and not let perfection become the enemy of the good.

It is important we do something. I encourage the White House to engage on this issue and assist us in moving this important legislation. As the famous football coach, George Allen, said: The future is now.

The future is now. Moody's recent expected down-gradings are disturbing. All over America, whether it is New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, Dallas, or any of the big cities in Florida, there are significant building projects that, if not on hold, will be on hold pending resolution of this issue.

This is not about tort reform. It is about maintaining the stability of our economic infrastructure. I hope we can, with this legislation, perhaps move forward to have something to deal with terrorism insurance. If not, I hope there is a way we can move forward soon, this week, to have this matter brought before the body with reasonable time agreements on the amendments, which would be appropriate; but if not, then let's just move forward on the legislation with no time agreements on any amendments.

The Republican manager is here. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002—Continued

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, yesterday I made a statement on the floor concerning the contents of the supplemental appropriations bill.

The bill is a good bill. It was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee by a vote of 29 to 0. That unanimous vote could not have been possible without the cooperation, the support, and the leadership of the distinguished Senator from Alaska, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. TED STEVENS.

As I indicated yesterday, the Appropriations Committee held extensive hearings on the President's supplemental request and on the needs for homeland defense. The able Senator from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS, and I joined in issuing the request for witnesses for these hearings.

Every witness that came before the committee had been agreed upon jointly by the Senator from Alaska and myself. We heard from terrorism experts about the continuing threat to our Nation. We heard from Governors. We heard from mayors. We heard from the first responders: Our police, fire, and medical personnel. They all testified to a continuing need for resources to expand our capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to terrorist attacks.

We took testimony from seven Cabinet members and the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Our former colleagues in this body, Sam Nunn and Warren Rudman, testified to the very real threat that this Nation faces. Those hearings were important, productive, and they brought forth exceedingly valuable information to the members of the committee. That information is reflected in the makeup of this appropriations bill.

The principal components of this supplemental bill are \$14 billion for the Department of Defense; \$1.9 billion for international emergencies; \$8.3 billion for homeland defense, including \$4.4 billion for the newly established Transportation Security Administration; \$5.5 billion for New York in response to the events of September 11; \$1 billion for the Pell grant shortfall; and \$417 million for VA medical care.

Mr. President, Senator STEVENS and I will join, hopefully, in opposing amendments that require offsets. Senator STEVENS is in the Chamber. He will speak for himself and I look forward to his remarks.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have come to the Senate floor this morning to join our distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee in recommending the committee substitute to H.R. 4775.

This bill reflects the priorities requested by the President which were to fight the war on terrorism, protect our

Nation from future attack, and support the recovery of New York.

The bill provides slightly more money than requested by the House bill, as our committee utilized the time available to conduct a series of hearings that addressed many challenges in our homeland defense efforts, and that is one of the reasons for the differences between the Senate bill and the House bill.

In addition, hearings that begin today by the Intelligence Committees may generate additional requirements for moneys in this bill to ensure the effective cooperation by our intelligence and law enforcement agencies in our homeland defense.

Most importantly, the bill provides funds vital to sustain military operations in the war against terrorism.

Our bill meets the commitment made by the President and the Congress to the victims of the September 11 attacks.

This bill enables the Transportation Safety Agency and the Coast Guard to perform and expand their mission to ensure the safety of American travelers and trade.

I endorse the increases provided in this bill for the Transportation Security Agency, the Coast Guard, FBI, INS, FEMA, and several other categories.

While these amounts exceed the level requested by the President, we believe the funds are needed by those who undertake these difficult and dangerous jobs. These are people who deserve our support.

In addition, the bill responds to the serious needs overseas as we try to support the President's efforts in the war on terrorism and to work for peace in the Middle East.

The \$250 million for the Middle East peace effort matches the House-reported level and sends a very important signal to our ally, Israel.

The \$100 million included in this bill for the fight against AIDS in Africa is very deserving. We are informed that some Members may advocate an even higher level for this item.

Finally, I personally appreciate that the full \$16 million sought by the President for Indonesia is included in this bill. Senator INOUE and I have recently returned from a trip to Indonesia, and we know firsthand the needs of that country.

For all of these reasons, as I have stated, I recommend the Senate advance this bill to a conference with the House as rapidly as possible. There are several issues I hope the Senate, in the conference with the House, will see fit to modify in the bill.

We have in the bill section 2002 that mandates that all nondefense emergencies must be so designated by the President at the same time. I don't believe that provision is necessary, but I am not going to oppose it.

Section 1102 of the bill makes the Director of the Office of Homeland Security subject to Senate confirmation. I

have joined Senator BYRD in seeking Governor Ridge's testimony before our committee. I further believe that position would be strengthened by a structure and a director with authorities defined in the law, as this amendment would provide.

Hopefully, an acceptable agreement can be reached over time between the Congress and the President on the issue of that office.

In the defense chapter, I regret that the authorities sought by the Secretary to respond to unforeseen requirements in working with our allies were not included, but the provision in the House bill, section 312, will be in conference and will be debated there quite heavily, I am sure.

The bill doesn't include the \$100 million sought by the Army and included in the House bill for a new initiative to destroy our stockpile of chemical weapons. This is another matter that we will have to address in conference. It is just a matter of how we can find the money to do all of these things at the same time.

I welcome the Senate proceeding to act on this bill today. It is my hope that we will reach an agreement on all first-degree amendments being filed today. There is no reason the Senate should not complete its work on this bill as rapidly as possible and be able to go to conference this week.

As soon as we complete this measure, we can turn to the fiscal year 2003 bills, and I remind colleagues that we have 13 separate bills to enact before the end of September. I hope Senators will assist us as members of this committee and reserve amendments that are more appropriately addressed in the fiscal year 2003 appropriations bills and not raise them on this supplemental.

As of today, we have only 117 days remaining in this fiscal year. There are very few days to take the initiatives that would be required to complete the 13 bills, and there are very few initiatives that can be realistically accomplished in that time, other than proceeding with our 13 bills.

Mr. President, I commend the chairman for bringing this bill to the floor. I thank him for his cooperation and kindness to me and to our staff in the consideration of this measure. It is a bipartisan measure. I am pleased to be in the Chamber with Senator BYRD to urge the Senate to complete action on it as rapidly as possible. I thank the Chair.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CARNAHAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have heard for weeks, if not months, how

important this legislation is. This is an emergency bill, an emergency supplemental. It deals with terrorism. The title of the bill is the supplemental appropriations act for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States.

In spite of its emergency nature, nothing is happening. There are no amendments being offered. We are doing absolutely nothing on the floor. I have spoken to the majority leader and I will confer with the two managers of the bill. At 3 this afternoon, or thereabouts, when the party conferences end, there should be Senators present, whether from the majority or the minority. We are going to move to third reading. If someone does not want us to move to third reading, they will have to object.

This is an emergency bill, the supplemental appropriations act for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States. If someone doesn't like something in this bill, try to get rid of it. I heard speeches the day we recessed that Members didn't like certain provisions in the House bill. Well, move to get rid of them. Let's not sit around in the Senate doing nothing.

I hope the White House will call those Senators with whom they have a line of communication and tell them what they don't like about the bill. The President has indicated how important this bill is. Let's move it. We are ready to move it. This afternoon we are going to move to third reading. If Members do not want to go to third reading, come and object.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MILLER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. MILLER. I also ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS FOR MEDICARE

Mr. MILLER. Madam President, let me read a few recent comments from the media, always a jaded and cynical bunch, but in this case let's hope their pessimism is wrong. Our senior citizens certainly pray that it is.

From the National Journal, May 25:

It is becoming increasingly unlikely that Congress this year will approve compromise legislation providing prescription drug benefits for Medicare recipients.

The Wall Street Journal, June 3:

President Bush and Congress are unlikely to agree this year on a promised Medicare benefit for prescription drugs.

World Market's Research Centre, May 20: